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19 July 1985

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

- Noted Author Discusses Burden of Democracy
(Ihsan 'Abd-al-Qaddus; AL-MAJALLAH, 5-11 Jun 85) 1

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

ISRAEL

- Defense Budget Cuts Create Problems
(Ze'ev Shif; HA'ARETZ, 2, 3 May 85) 4
- Internal Disputes in Kach Movement Revealed
(Lilli Galili; HA'ARETZ, 26 Apr 85) 9

JORDAN

- AL-RA'Y Columnist on USSR Visit, Talks
(Fahd al-Rimawi; AL-RA'Y, 24 Jun 85) 13
- Arab Bank Chairman on Expansion to China
('Abd al-Majid Shuman Interview; THE JERUSALEM STAR,
27 Jun-3 Jul 85) 15
- Phosphate Company Chief Views Future Plans
(Wasif 'Azar Interview; THE JERUSALEM STAR, 27 Jun-3 Jul 83) 17

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

- Soviets Adopt New Strategy, War Intensifies
(KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 22 May 85) 19

Soviets Launch Major Offensive (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 29 May 85)	20
Soviet Forces Enter Kunar Valley (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 3 Jun 85)	21
Soviet Offensive Designed To Seal Pakistan Border (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 1 Jun 85)	22
Pakistan Warns Against Air Violation (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 30 May 85)	24
Mujahidin Down Soviet Copter (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 30 May 85)	25
Politburo Adopts Measures for Consolidating Results of Loya Jirgah (KABUL NEW TIMES, 28 May 85)	27
Eradication of Illiteracy Major State Objective (KABUL NEW TIMES, 8 Jun 85)	31
Attention Given to Enhance Quality of Education (KABUL NEW TIMES, 26 May 85)	35
Education for Children Involves Training in Soviet Union (KABUL NEW TIMES, 1 Jun 85)	36
Educational Agreement Signed With USSR (KABUL NEW TIMES, 5 Jun 85)	38
Network of Kindergartens Expanding (KABUL NEW TIMES, 27 May 85)	39
New Level of Achievement Reached in Literacy Campaign (KABUL NEW TIMES, 10 Jun 85)	41
Vocational, Technical Training Objective of DRA (KABUL NEW TIMES, 9 Jun 85)	43
Over 600 Literacy Courses Function in Nangarhar (KABUL NEW TIMES, 9 Jun 85)	45
14,000 Graduates Introduced to State for Employment (KABUL NEW TIMES, 25 May 85)	46
Changes in Education System Implemented Throughout Country (KABUL NEW TIMES, 1 Jun 85)	47
Afghan Islamic Organization Issues Statement (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 26 May 85)	49

Vast Construction Work Under Way (KABUL NEW TIMES, 9 Jun 85)	50
Innovations in Banking System Discussed (KABUL NEW TIMES, 25 May 85)	51
Government To Support Development of Light, Foodstuff Industries (KABUL NEW TIMES, 4 Jun 85)	52
Dried Fruit Export Second Only to Natural Gas (KABUL NEW TIMES, 2 Jun 85)	54
Projects To Increase Airport Capacity (KABUL NEW TIMES, 25 May 85)	56
Land Reforms Implemented in Kabul Province (KABUL NEW TIMES, 5 Jun 85)	58
Agricultural Cooperatives Assist Farmers in Rural Areas (KABUL NEW TIMES, 21 May 85)	60
Coal Mine Being Rehabilitated (KABUL NEW TIMES, 26 May 85)	62
Council Issues Decree on Pardon, Mitigation of Prison Terms (KABUL NEW TIMES, 6 Jun 85)	63
Blood Provided to Needy (KABUL NEW TIMES, 29 May 85)	65
Preventive, Curative Measures Provided by Child Health Institute (KABUL NEW TIMES, 1 Jun 85)	67
New Textile Mills Wstablished in Herat (KABUL NEW TIMES, 18 May 85)	68
Communication Seminar Opens in Kabul (KABUL NEW TIMES, 23 May 85)	69
Conference Estimates Role of State Information Service (KABUL NEW TIMES, 25 May 85)	70
Briefs	
Agricultural Agreement	72
Land Ownership Documents	72

BANGLADESH

Indian, Sri Lanka Leaders Visit To See Storm Damage (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 3 Jun 85; THE NEW NATION, 4 Jun 85)	73
---	----

Gandhi, Jayewardene at Press Conference	73
Ershad at Press Conference	74
Ershad, Gandhi Talks	76
Ganges Issues Discussed	76
Pakistan President Visits To Inspect Storm Area (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 6 Jun 85)	78
Remarks to Press	78
Ershad Remarks	81
Reportage on June Meeting of Joint Rivers Commission (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 3, 5 Jun 85)	82
Stands, Background Given, by Abdur Rahim	82
Talks Adjourn	83
Report on Bangladesh-Malaysia Discussions Denied (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Jun 85)	86
Pakistan Ambassador Briefs Overseas Correspondents (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Jun 85)	87
ADB Declines Development Support for Dhaka Banks (Nizamuddin; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 5 Jun 85)	89
Paper Notes Mismanagement of Disaster Relief Aid (THE NEW NATION, 5 Jun 85)	90
Bhutanese Princess Leads Solidarity Delegation (THE NEW NATION, 7 Jun 85)	91
Opposition Leaders Demand Release of Detainees (HOLIDAY, 7 Jun 85)	93
Briefs	
Urir Char Administration	95
Ambassador to PRC	95
Dhaka-Moscow Ties	95
Shortcomings in Agricultures	96
Indians Steal Cattle	96
Hasina on Disaster	96
Commodity Aid Short	97
Panel on Rationing	97
Japanese Envoy's Credentials	97

INDIA

Analyst Sees Warped Thinking in Indo-U.S. Relationships (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 2 Jun 85)	99
---	----

Report on Gorbachev Interview With PTI (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 20 May 85)	102
Editorial Says Indo-Soviet Relations 'On a Plateau' (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 24 May 85)	105
HINDU Analyst Reviews Indo-Soviet Relations (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 20 May 85)	107
Agreement on Indo-Soviet Technology Exchange Reported (THE STATESMAN, 31 May 85)	110
India Opposed to U.S. Stand on Trade Talks (THE STATESMAN, 1 Jun 85)	111
Writer Sees Deterioration in Indo-UK Relations (M. L. Kotru; THE STATESMAN, 28 May 85)	112
India, France Sign Protocol on Cooperation in Coal (PATRIOT, 29 May 85)	114
Financial Cooperation Agreement Signed With FRG (THE TELEGRAPH, 29 May 85)	115
Editorials Discuss Foreign Involvement With Terrorists (Various sources, 15, 16 May 85)	116
Need for Improved Intelligence	116
Plotting of Sikh Emigres	117
Timing of FBI Action Questioned	118
CPI Leaders Question Validity of Antiterrorist Bill (PATRIOT, 30 May 85)	120
Soviet-Built Ship in Western Naval Command Exercise (THE TELEGRAPH, 29 May 85)	121
Soviets To Study Feasibility of Bauxite Mine (THE HINDU, 28 May 85)	122
Delhi Reported Rethinking Policy on Neighbor Relations (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 5 May 85)	123
HINDU Analyst Reports on Gandhi-Jayewardene Talks (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, various dates)	126
Bhandari's Visit to Sri Lanka	126
2 Jun Talks, Bangladesh Visit	127
Press Statement Discussed	128
Records To Be Kept	129
Gandhi, Jayewardene Approach Compared	130

Protest on Air Intrusion Made to Pakistan Envoy (PATRIOT, 1 Jun 85)	133
Writer Notes 'Ominous Signs' on Pakistan Border (Saral Patra; PATRIOT, 4 Jun 85)	134
Six Top CPI Leaders Attack Official Party Line (Arindam Sen Gupta; PATRIOT, 1 Jun 85)	137
CPI General Secretary Meets Press in Bhubaneswar (THE TELEGRAPH, 4 Jun 85)	139
Longowal Denies Efforts To Form Separate Sikh State (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 28 May 85)	140
Longowal Sets Conditions for Resumption of Talks (THE TELEGRAPH, 2 Jun 85)	142
Report on Rajiv Speech at Bank of India Celebration (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 2 Jun 85; THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 2 Jun 85)	143
Importance of Private Sector	143
Need for Modernization	144
Prospects for Balance of Payments Termed 'Alarming' (THE STATESMAN, 31 May 85)	146
Bahuguna Calls for National Panel on Punjab (THE STATESMAN, 1 Jun 85)	148
Minister Claims Dhaka Receiving Share of Ganges Water (THE TELEGRAPH, 2 Jun 85)	149
Change in Telugu Desam Party Constitution Reported (THE HINDU, 29 May 85)	150
Commission Warns of Polling Problems in Bihar (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Jun 85)	151
Consumer Electronics Industry Sees 'Production Explosion' (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Jun 85)	153

IRAN

Islamic Republic Called Upon to Mediate (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 25 May 85)	155
Agreement Signed for \$200-Million Export to GDR (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 23 May 85)	156

Islamic Republic Has Right Regarding Iraq's Future Regime (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 21 May 85)	157.
Briefs	
Bombing Suspect Arrested	159

EGYPT

NOTED AUTHOR DISCUSSES BURDEN OF DEMOCRACY

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Jun 85 p 37

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd-al-Qaddus: "Democracy Isn't Easy"]

[Text] "A democratic way of life is more difficult, more tiring, and more dangerous than living under a dictatorship," said the oldster with a sad smile.

"There can be no comparison between freedom and slavery," objected the youth.

Said the oldster in his sad voice:

"What is democracy? It is responsibility. I am not comparing democracy to dictatorship. I am saying that the responsibility of democracy is harder than the responsibility of dictatorship. Democracy vests the people with all responsibility. The people are represented by dozens of parties, each with its own leadership, strength, and individual orientation. It is difficult, sometimes even impossible, to combine all those parties in one direction and in joint responsibility for government. This difficulty causes a country to become disoriented and unable to realize its objectives or solve its problems. This is why no people can attain democracy before it has lived bitter experiences, sometimes for hundreds of years, until it has been christened by fire and evolved in civilization to the level of responsibility for democracy. Britain did not attain its present democracy until it had been tested for a long period of its history. France had reached ultimate democracy but the French people, in the aftermath of World War II, could not bear that responsibility, forcing General DeGaulle to modify the constitution and restrict democratic freedoms until a time when the people could accept responsibility for them. Dictatorship is easy to implement because it limits all power and responsibility to one individual or one organization. He alone becomes free. He alone gets credit for all victories and responsibility for all defeats. The rest of the people, as it was said in the days of 'Abd-al-Nasir, are merely employees of that dictator. On the other hand, it is easy to understand the personality of a dictator. It is also easy to effect his removal, no matter how long that may take, by utilizing known techniques to gather popular forces against him."

Smirked the youth:

"Most of the time, a dictator can be removed only by death. The dictators of Yugoslavia, Spain, Albania, et al were terminated only through God's will. A despot dies and is succeeded by another because dictatorships are based on a system of government, not on an individual. Even if a despot were removed before his death, the dictatorship could outlive him, as happened in the Soviet Union after the removal of Khrushchev."

The oldster interrupted:

"A dictator can not be inherited because, as he rules, he is not restrained by a system of government even if it is of his own making. He governs in total freedom in a unique individual fashion dictated by his personality and mentality. An individual's nature or mentality can not be inherited. Anwar al-Sadat did not inherit all the personality traits of 'Abd-al-Nasir. Husni Mubarak did not inherit the same ruling style as Al-Sadat. In Spain, the system of government evolved, albeit its evolution was planned by Franco before his death. The system of government in Yugoslavia is evolving naturally after Tito's dictatorship ended and his personality vanished. Even in the Soviet Union the system of government has been developing since Lenin and under Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, etc. even though that evolution is slow and unseen. It has been said that evolution under the new Soviet administration will be wider in scope. All such developments that occur in the wake of a one-man dictatorship are meant to increase popular freedoms and vest the people with more national and political responsibilities until they reach a life of full democracy."

Said the youth with enthusiasm:

"What awaits the Sudan is not mere evolution of the system of government but rather a huge jump from dictatorship to democracy. The people will govern their own country. They are freed from submitting to one man's rule."

Sighing in bewilderment, the oldster said:

"I jumped for joy when the Sudanese people finally managed, after 15 years of trying, to shake off the dictatorship that was imposed on them for 16 years. It was a patriotic populist victory. The leader of the military coup affirmed this when he declared that he would not rule in order to allow for a popular civilian system of government. But joy was tempered with the realization of the incredible difficulties that might face the Sudanese as they approach democracy. The popular structure in existence today is fragmented among a large number of political parties and leaderships as well as religious and tribal sects. Will they rise above party and religious differences to join together in their quest for common goals so that democracy can be realized? Or would it be safer for them to develop their democracy step by step as is happening in Egypt and in many other countries in the same position? This way they can develop diligence in working towards objectives before impotence leads to the loss of this democracy and a return to dictatorial rule."

The youth challenged:

"Various objectives can be unified into a common goal despite sectarianism and multiplicity of parties. You remember that before Sudan gained independence, its popular structure fell basically into two basic fronts--the Mahdi front and the Khatmiyah front. Their differences were major. Al-Mahdiyyah wanted independence from Egypt while al-Khatmiyah sought unity with it. But when the going got tough in the quest for deliverance from British imperialism, the two groups united in the same objective in every detail. The Sudan gained her independence and statehood. Indeed, her first administration was the party that sought unity with Egypt. All that was accomplished in an atmosphere of populist democracy, so take heart..."

Smiling sadly, the oldster said:

"It is also easier to gain independence than to live with it and practice it. The people were able to accomplish their independence but they have been living in dire difficulty ever since. As with other members of the third world, the Sudan is faced with several problems that are most vexing. Any small country faces the problem of positioning itself between the United States and the Soviet Union while resisting the attempts of both superpowers to penetrate it and win it over. Then there is Sudan's problem of sharing her northern borders with Egypt whose international political stance conflicts with that of Libya at Sudan's northwestern frontier and of Ethiopia to the east. How can the Sudan be comfortable with its position towards these conflicting interests when indeed there are those in Egypt who worry lest the Sudan ally herself with Ethiopia and Libya to create a united political axis that could lay siege to and impose its political will on Egypt? Then there is the third problem, the problem of sectarianism between the north and the south. There is the problem throughout the Sudan of too many parties that are almost sectarian in nature. The fifth problem is the economic situation which imposes itself on every step and every direction. All these problems necessitate that in the Sudan democracy be based on the commonality of objective and on constitutional and legal authority in order to assure that the multiplicity of parties and sects do not obstruct the realization of national objectives. Having said they would allow it in 6 months, Sudanese officials themselves perhaps have realized how difficult it is to realize democracy. They now say they need a full year in order to lay out the bases and system for this democracy. Lately others have been saying it might take 3 years. This proves my point that it is not easy to have democracy. Time is needed to organize it and prepare the laws on which it is to be based."

The youth said with confidence:

"I am sure the Sudanese people are capable of overcoming all obstacles. Since it gained independence, it has not faced a difficulty it could not surmount..."

12945

CSO: 4504/365

ISRAEL

DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS CREATE PROBLEMS

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2, 3 May 85

[Article by Ze'ev Shif: "The Cuts Were Not Carried Out"]

[2 May 85 p 7]

[Text] The budget difficulties afflicting the IDF are real. And that despite the fact that the Finance Ministry budget books of 1984 and 1985 show no significant cuts (1984 shows an overall budget of \$4.25 billion including expenses for Lebanon, while the 1985 budget shows \$4 billion without Lebanon). The reasons for the difficulties are several. One is that various cuts that had been previously decided upon were not implemented by the IDF. The civilian factors in charge were not strong enough to impose the government and Knesset decisions on the IDF. Now, the IDF is requested to redeem its paper, and that is painful. Chief of Staff Dan Shomron complained at the press conference at which he explained the IDF work program and the effect of the cuts that the situation is like that of a man who is ordered to go on a crash diet and lose weight in one day. But Shomron was not being precise. The truth is that the decision is not of recent date; the patient ignored the order at the time, and thus has no reason to complain now.

Brig Gen Tzvi Shor, former (until February 1982) financial advisor to the chief of staff, notes in this connection: "The defense system apparently did not carry out all the cuts decided upon in the past 3 years. The result is that cuts have been accumulating from several years back, and now there is no choice but to implement them."

The Defense Ministry actually confirms this statement. The time has come to pay the price for the failure to carry out decisions, they say. For example, the decision to absorb part of the Lebanon expenses was not carried out. The same applies to the decision to cut back on manpower. The army ignored previous decisions and continued to race ahead. The IDF confirms that it "launched projects" in the hope that things will work out, as they did in the past. Now, however, the pressure has greatly increased because of the economic crisis and because of the fact that the IDF recorded various increases, such as the increase in the pay of regular troops, and price increases that were not covered by the Finance Ministry.

The second reason for the budget difficulties is the war in Lebanon and everything involved in it. Aside from the cost of the war itself, 3 years

of deployment in the Lebanese morass caused great expenditures. The amounts involved in those two areas are to this day not clear. To that one must add the expenses caused by the fact that various secrets were revealed during the war. That is unavoidable in any war, but after it one has to develop and redesign weapons systems in order to ensure the advantage and the element of surprise on the battlefield for the future. Expenses were also incurred by the pull-out from Lebanon and the redeployment along the international border. Those subjects cannot be treated lightly. For example, if it is decided to extend the IDF's deployment on the eastern front, opposite Syrian troops equipped with large quantities of artillery pieces, that means that the IDF units in that sector must be provided with suitable cover and facilities. The Lebanon expenses fell partly on the defense budget, and the IDF carried them out.

Shortage of Shekels

The more these pressures mounted, the more acute became the IDF's money shortage. The paradox is that, in view of the generous American military aid, the IDF was in a position to spend more dollars than shekels. In that strange situation, the defense apparatus tried to purchase in the United States, in dollars, items that it could not pay for in Israel in shekels. For example, since it did not have the shekels to buy paper for the defense system, it decided to purchase cellulose in the United States out of the aid money, and to use it to pay the paper plant in Hadera. The cellulose affair was not the only one of its kind. Thus, office equipment and meat were purchased in the United States out of military aid funds. That is undoubtedly a disturbing misuse of U.S. military aid, even if the American government had no objection. It is, however, doubtful that cellulose or office equipment procurement can qualify as military reinforcement for Israel. The shekel shortage is also felt in other ways. Since the shekels are not available to have engines on Air Force planes repaired by the Aircraft industry, many of those engines were sent to the United States to be fixed out of U.S. aid money. The aircraft industry is up in arms, and rightly so, since it stands to lose hundreds of thousands of work hours.

Another pressure factor is connected with the American military aid. As is known, for 1985 that aid was increased from \$1.4 billion to \$1.8 (including a grant). Since the Israeli fiscal year (which begins on 1 April) and the U.S. fiscal year (beginning 1 October) do not coincide, the Finance Ministry claimed that \$400 million will be added to the defense apparatus. In talks with the Defense Ministry, the Finance Ministry requested that half that amount be set off in various ways. The defense people claim that such a step is contrary to the intentions of the U.S. Administration and Congress, which awarded the funds specifically for Isreali's defense.

A similar conflict arose in connection with the "Lavi" airplane. In an initial agreement between Finance Minister Yoran Aridor and former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon it was decided that the budget for the manufacture of the "Lavi" will not be included in the defense budget. That decision was later changed, and the bottom line was that half of the funds required to develop the "Lavi" would come from the defense budget, and half from other

budgets. However, that decision was again changed under Defense Minister Arens, to wit: the second half of the funds would be granted to Defense as a loan from the treasury, to be repaid over a period of several years. When the United States agreed to convert part of the U.S. military aid into shekels for the development of the "Lavi." Although most of the funds for the development of the plane come from U.S. aid, there is no doubt that this matter, too, weighs on the defense budget. The funds do, indeed, come from the outside, but they come from the military aid to Israel. This slice of the pie allocated to the Air Force increases its share at the expense of other corps and objectives.

[3 May 85 p 13]

[Text] Was the IDF's might sapped by the cuts and reductions imposed on it? That is one of the key questions that preoccupied me while gathering the facts for this series of articles. Generally speaking, it can be stated that the economic crisis and the Lebanon war weakened both Israel and the IDF. This weakening is one of the worst failures of the previous government. From a military viewpoint, the situation is more complex and has not been completely clarified, although the IDF is now completing its withdrawal from Lebanon. The comparison that comes most readily to mind is with the year 1981, the year that preceded the Lebanon war and in which a new program was put into effect for the IDF for a period of several years. Some may say that the IDF is weaker than it was in 1981. Others claim that it has not been weakened, but that it now does less than it did in 1981, and will do even less next year. Clearly the economic situation does not permit increasing and developing the IDF in accordance with the 1981 plans.

The IDF's general might will not be eroded much in the coming year. In my opinion, the possibility that the regular army may be somewhat reduced and units may be transferred to the reserves does not constitute grounds for too much worry. The AVIATION WEEK weekly says that the Israeli Air Force plans to scrap several old squadrons, but people who follow Israel's purchases of sophisticated aircraft know that the Air Force will derive a significant qualitative compensation. Even if the "Skyhawk" planes, which are at the bottom of Israel's aircraft ladder, are taken out of action, one must remember that Israel is in the process of signing agreements on the purchase of F15 and F16 planes. Thus, the qualitative average of the Air Force aircraft will in fact be higher than in the past, which means that a drop in quantity will be compensated by an increase in quality.

For the ground forces, a certain qualitative compensation will be provided if old "Centurion" tanks, or the T55 tanks captured and improved, are replaced by an even smaller number of sophisticated models of the "Merkava." That exchange may even increase the capability of the ground forces. Such compensation can be found not only in connection with major arms systems, but also with auxiliary systems and ammunition. Indeed, the IDF can count on such qualitative compensations in other areas, too, which soften the negative impact of cuts and reductions. Nevertheless, one must remember that there is a limit to how much quality can make up for lost quantity, especially if the other side manages to improve while preserving its quantitative superiority.

Cuts in units and equipment, and in the procurement of additional arms systems are only one side of the coin when it comes to strength and weakness. The other side concerns matters that are difficult to gauge, such as: what will happen if indeed IDF training is reduced, or if engine hours are cut, and others that are easier to estimate, such as the stockpile situation (various types of ammunition and spare parts) and the development of weapons and equipment that can influence the battlefield in the future.

Significant cuts in the defense budget cannot but have an impact on all those areas, which are usually the first to suffer in the event of cutbacks. And while we said that there is no reason to worry about the size of the regular army and its weapons, the situation concerning other subjects is different, not only because in those areas it is almost impossible to find an immediate qualitative compensation for the losses, as was the case with weapon systems; for example, if training hours are cut, one can have simulated situations to make up for it, or sophisticated electronic systems that analyze dogfights (and that the Air Force has indeed acquired). However, all those substitutes are only partial. In those areas, the erosion that has been taking place in the IDF for some time, cannot be allowed to continue, or our situation will worsen and we will become militarily weak despite all the fine weaponry.

Another danger is hidden in the area of development of special weapons, ammunition and equipment. The Israeli arms development industry has produced impressive achievements and won acclaim even in the United States. At a time of cutbacks, the first impulse is to tamper with this industry, too. It is more difficult to lay off military men, who are half unemployed, than to cancel plans to develop a new weapon system or ammunition. However, it is precisely technological progress that can secure for the IDF advantages in the battlefield and can ensure that the army is capable of surprising the enemy in sensitive areas. Hence, the development sector must be handled with no less care than that which is accorded to intelligence breaks.

The complaints voiced by defense about damage in the above areas are more justified. But, in order to elicit responsiveness, the IDF must clean up its house in other respects. I am primarily referring to cuts that must be carried out in the size of its commands. According to one report, the IDF currently has hundreds of men in the ground forces command, while another report puts that figure at over 1,000. If that is the case, what is the purpose of these multitudes. To shift the cumbersomeness from one place to another? The ground forces command is only one example, even if it is the most prominent, and there are other similar cases of awkward command headquarters, beginning with the general staff and the regional commands, and ending with the officers' commands of the major corps, some of which may not even have been needed in the first place. In such places there is a striking concealed unemployment.

Our consideration would not be complete without examining the question whether it will be possible to compensate the IDF in the future for the present cuts, so as to prevent the onset of a process of military weakening.

There is talk in the IDF about future compensation, but there is also little faith in the treasury and doubt as to its abilities. In my opinion, the question does not depend on the relations between the defense and finance mechanisms, but on our capability to restore economic growth. However, even if Israel can in the future allocate to defense the funds it did in the past, and even if the United States continues to grant military aid at the same level as at the present, the problem will continue to be exacerbated. In view of the increases in the price of weapons, in the maintenance of the new equipment, and in training manpower, we will find that if we want to continue the old system of growth and renewal, and of replacing old equipment, we will again have to increase the defense budget. Since constant factors (such as recompenses and rehabilitation payments, equipment maintenance, and so forth) tend to increase, we will find that the funds available for development, change and refurbishing will decrease from one year to the next.

The conclusion is that with the present system, the defense capability we derive from the current budget will drop. Thus, for example, if the IDF has to finance the development and manufacture of the "Lavi," it is doubtful whether it will be possible to purchase for the IDF the next aircraft, the F18, or the model after it. The final conclusion is that in the future we will not be in a position to preserve both the present troops structure, to absorb further strength, and to develop new weapons systems. That is possible only if U.S. military aid increases even more and if a considerable portion of it is converted to shekels. Otherwise we will have to take old weapons systems out of action when new ones are introduced, or to change the IDF structure, a fact which will make it necessary to change Israel's defense concept.

12782

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ISRAEL

INTERNAL DISPUTES IN KACH MOVEMENT REVEALED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Apr 84 p 11

[Article by Lilli Galili: "The Big Dictator"]

[Text] At a meeting in the Kach offices in Jerusalem, held in the euphoric week that followed the electoral victory, Kach Chairman Eli Adir was one of the most prominent ingredients of what looked then like an internal revolution in the movement. The 31-year old business engineering graduate of the Institute of Technology was then the embodiment of a normalization and institutionalization that elated supporters and frightened the others. His appearance, background, education, and even his manner of speaking contradicted the Kach stereotype that we chose to see: that of a dreamer, an alien, a "dropout" on the fringes of society. Adir did not appear to be any of those. Moreover, at a time when his movement colleagues were drunk with victory, the chairman spoke about the importance of organizing the movement with a view to turning it into a parliamentary faction, of internal order, of the intellectual contents of the system, and of other various things that bespoke permanent, organized establishment.

Nine months ago, the businesslike tone devoid of pathological heat and the concern for the administration of the movement sounded even more frightening than some of his colleagues' threats. Which does not mean that Adir differed from them ideologically: he, too, referred then to Kahane as a savior, combining in his philosophy all the important values of the people of Israel and the Israeli philosophy, and his student days were marked by extreme right and anti-Arab activities (only against nationalistic students, he stresses, when the pretext might have been only loud Arab music). Some 2 weeks ago, Adir found himself out of Kach. Whether he "resigned" or was "eased out," his separation from the movement revealed a process of internal disintegration the causes of which are rooted particularly in the personality of Kahane and the people close to him.

Many of the main activists (about 30-40 of them) recently left the movement, among them the secretary of the Dan region. Some of the movement offices were closed down. The Tel Aviv office, the largest and most active of them, is not staffed, while activities at the Petah Tiqva office have slowed down to almost nothing. The Haifa and Be'er Sheva offices have equally low mustering. This internal disintegration bears no connection to the

electoral strength of the movement and does not necessarily reflect the scope of public support. At a Tel Aviv coffee house, returning from a class at a near-by yeshiva of young scholars that the "born again" believer likes to frequent, Adir says: One of the reasons for which I left is the people in the movement. When I joined, I found there a collection of eccentrics from the fringes and bottom of society and new immigrants who had not found a place for themselves. I tried to coopt into the system Sabras, men of action, and intellectuals with whom I had succeeded in developing connections. Much to my surprise I encountered enormous opposition from the movement office-holders. They are apparently afraid of losing their jobs and positions, although they are simply not suited for them. Instead of personalities that can attract the public, positions are filled with people who repulse through their strangeness, appearance, and working methods."

Did the fact that he was the only Sephardi among the Ashkenazi leadership (although the majority of the movement supporters are Sephardis) play a role in his relationship to his colleagues? Adir chooses his words carefully: "It is true that you do not see Sephardis in the leadership, and that is a very striking fact. The activists remark on it. And the new members, those who are joining now, are also all Ashkenazis. I would not want to say that there is discrimination in the movement, but this is what is happening. I think that this is not merely a mistake, but a guideline from above. Now they have appointed a puppet general chairman, a Sephardi, so they can show him off. I believe that the attitude taken toward me stemmed from both narrowmindedness and the fact that I am Sephardi."

The major figure of the entire organization was and remains Kahane himself. To put it mildly, he is the soloist who steals the show from any strong man appearing next to him. In other words, he is a dictator for whom democracy is not a significant value, even within the movement. One of the movement activists, who had come to talk to him about the appointment of movement envoys (one of the projects that brought about the final break between Kahane and the general chairman), heard him say: "It is a good thing that Kach is not a democracy; I am the only one who will decide what to do and what not to do." And this is indeed the situation within Kach. Kahane, the lonely, friendless wolf, is difficult to work with, let alone make friends with. He is subject to changing moods, is constantly looking for excitement, and his reactions manage to surprise even those working close to him.

Adir says: "According to him, anyone he does not like is to be brutally removed; beginning with the Arab problem, where the solution is to chase them away by force, through his attitude to leftist parliamentary groups, and down to the bodies closest to him. The whole atmosphere is one of continued fighting against and direct confrontation with anything standing in the way, and of continual muscle flexing. There is never any attempt to persuade or to talk. The answer is: 'That is how I want it.' When colleagues pointed out to him that it is not right to refer in public to the Arabs as 'dogs,' he said: 'But they are.' "This style puts many people off. He surrounds himself with people who need to be told what to do, then proceeds to do so. So it is correct to say that the movement is Kahane, and that without him there is no Kach. At the same time, however, without supporters there is no Kahane.

Scraping the Bottom for Supporters

The initial enthusiasm that swept Kahane's supporters after the electoral victory is beginning to fade. In itself, that is an unexpected development in view of the fact that some of the sociological-psychological and political factors that made the movement possible are currently offering fertile grounds: a renewal of Arab terrorism and national crime--which recently went as far as murder in several cases--unemployment, and economic difficulties. Kahane skillfully exploits these factors in his speeches and appearances, but they are not helping him enlist supporters. Veteran activists soon became bored with the routine and repetitive work; passive supporters almost never go into action, perhaps also for fear of becoming involved with the law, a risk inherent in any event connected with Kahane or with the movement. It is becoming increasingly difficult to rally people to demonstrations, and the movement has to rely mostly on local rubbernecks. When the movement went to Ramallah to demonstrate after the murder of Zalman Abulnik, it was only with difficulty that they managed to fill one bus with demonstrators from the entire country, "whom they practically dragged along by force." The activists from Bet Shemesh refused to participate in the Taiyibe action.

It would seem that for activists in need of "action," the visit to Umm al-Fahm exhausted all the potential hidden in such events, and they are bored by repetition. "We only yell, but we do not do anything" is the complaint of activists who push in vain for further extremism. Kahane is looking for a new "gimmick" to replace the visits to Arab villages, but has yet to find one. There is no doubt that the media's policy of playing down Kahane's actions is having its effect. In the movement it is whispered that Kahane never considered this possibility, and that it is making him irate. Moreover, the movement is also in dire economic straights (even the computer that was used for the lists of supporters had to be returned). Almost all financing comes from the United States, and every 2-3 months Kahane leaves on extended fund-collecting trips which take him out of action.

"The problem is mostly organizational and has to do with Kahane's personality," says Eli Adir summing up his views of what is happening in the movement. "Each activist needs reinforcement, permanent contact, information, continuous steering, and a constant stream of objectives, which Kahane is incapable of providing himself and unwilling to delegate to others. And so activities grind to a halt and the entire idea suffers." Against this background and disagreement as to style, a new extremist movement is currently being organized. It will bear the name "'AL" ('Oz Leyisra'el) [Strength for Israel], will consist of former Kach members and will draw on a potential stock of people ideologically close to Kach but who were put off by its style, those who view Kahane as a great ideologue but a small leader with an unsuitable style, and who want to sell the same ideology in a more attractive packaging. They will not call the Arabs "dogs," not because they do not see them as such, but because it is not the right tactic. The declared objective is to eliminate the stylistic brutality and to provide practical substitute solutions. Such as what? Such as settling the Israeli Arabs and those from

the West Bank in the Sinai Peninsula or in the Sahara desert; the details have not yet been all worked out. The platform that is crystallizing bears the slogan: "A solution to the Jewish problem" (as opposed to the "solution to the Arab problem" offered by Kach), of which the Arab problem is only one competent.

The movement organizers are now conducting negotiations with a prominent Likud figure (whose name they are for the time being keeping very secret) who is considering the possibility of leading the new movement. Kahane's internal dictatorship and his organizational failure are likely to give birth to a second Kach upon fertile socio-political soil and within the law.

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19 July 1985

JORDAN

AL-RA'Y COLUMNIST ON USSR VISIT, TALKS

JN240819 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jun 85 p 26

[Article by Fahd al-Rimawi in "7 Days" column: "Observations From the USSR"]

[Excerpt] In this age of mass exodus to the cities of the West, I acted differently and journeyed to the capital of the East. For 2 weeks I laid my miseries and splitting headache on a soft, silken pillow called Moscow.

I tried to reduce--and I won't say get rid of--the state of psychological depression, collapsed morale, and political disgust that gripped me, tormented me, and tore me to pieces over what has happened and is still happening to the stricken Palestinian camps in Lebanon, where the impossible and unacceptable have become rampant; assumptions have mixed with convictions; vocal cords have become entangled from sheer outbidding; true affiliations have intermingled with false claims; rules, principles, and alliances have become shaky; stands of enemies and friends have changed deceptively; secondary issues have taken priority over basic issues; and justice has been used to serve falsehood or to beatify it so it will look like justice.

In Moscow, Kiev, and Kishinev, I tried to give up the addiction to politics, stop listening to Arab news, and avoid arguments. I purposely dug myself into foreign sands to forget my feelings of resentment and astonishment at the way Palestinian blood was being spilled so cheaply in the camps of Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah.

But the curse of politics chases people everywhere, even if they shut themselves away in airtight towers or go on holidays. Politics is a sea where there is no room for silence or inaction. Whoever is in it must move or swim otherwise he will be carried away by the roaring high seas.

So I returned to politics, and to the Middle East in particular, in four press meetings with Kudryatsev, vice chairman of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee; Sukhin, the official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry on Middle East affairs; Belyayev, chief of the international desk in LITERATURNIYA GAZETTA and an expert on Arab affairs; and Primakov, president of the Institute of Oriental Studies and the CPSU Central Committee adviser, who is also one of three men in charge of Soviet policy toward the Arab world.

During these talks, I heard a ring of sadness and a tone of pessimism--and I won't say frustration--in the Soviet statesmen's talk about what is taking place in the Arab world in general, and in the Palestinian sphere in particular. They closely monitor events and analyze Arab phenomena, but they are still confused by the gap between the premises and the results, the contradiction between words and deeds, and the mixture of friends and foes.

They present long explanations, pose many questions and exclamations, welcome differences in viewpoints, and affirm their desire to maintain close friendship. At the same time, however, and without wanting to seem as though they are interfering or dictating, they are very much critical of and astonished about what is taking place in the Arab arenas.

After a long heated dialogue, Primakov told me: The Palestinians have no choice but to agree and close their ranks. Otherwise, all the blood they have shed and all the sacrifices they have made would be lost.

When I expressed my doubts about the possibilities of Palestinian unity now that the various groups have gone too far in their differences, he told me--and there was challenge and pity in what he said--this is how I see the situation. If you think that this is impossible, then show me another way of getting out of the Palestinian crisis. Do you have an alternative?

In Kiev, the capital of Ukraine; and Kishinev, the capital of Moldavia, I met with many Palestinian students. They were locked in arguments, split into different parties, and ready to pounce on one another. Every time I heard a student attacking a colleague, or saw groups of students threatening one another, I remembered Primakov's words and placed my hand on my heart, knowing that we are indeed heading toward a catastrophe.

CSO: 4400/181

JORDAN

ARAB BANK CHAIRMAN ON EXPANSION TO CHINA

JN271822 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 27 Jun-3 Jul 85 p 13

[Report on interview with 'Abd al-Majid Shuman, Arab Bank chairman, by Pam Dougherty--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Amman--The Arab Bank is preparing to move into the Chinese market in anticipation of growing involvement by Arab financial institutions in Chinese projects in the coming years.

The bank has received permission to open an off-shore banking unit [OBU] in China but Arab Bank Chairman 'Abd al-Majid Shuman says: "We prefer to go jointly with the Bank of China." He is now awaiting a decision from the Chinese on Arab Bank's request for a joint banking venture, the first of its kind in China. Mr Shuman says the request was "approved in principle" during a visit to Jordan last year, at the Arab Bank's invitation, by the Chairman of the Bank of China.

Mr Shuman says that a joint venture would give the Arab Bank better access to new projects in China and would ensure a smoother working situation as the Bank of China is responsible for the allocation of all finance and other facilities for new projects. The Chinese would gain the advantage of easier access to finance. He says: "They can supply local funds and I can supply foreign currency."

Mr Shuman will visit China within the next few weeks for further discussions and is confident of success. Should the request for a joint bank be refused, however, the bank will go ahead with an OBU.

The Arab Bank has been developing contacts with China for several years and Shuman paid his first visit to the country in 1979. In 1980 the bank participated in a \$300 million loan to China and a representative office in Peking has been open since 1983. The office has been collecting information and possibilities for participation and has been assisting Arab merchants in China.

Once the Arab Bank does enter the field in China it should help to strengthen the already healthy Chinese-Jordanian relations. The deepening of these relations is highlighted by two loan projects currently underway.

The Bank of China is comanaging a \$200 million Euroloan to Jordan, with a stake of \$3-4 million, while the Arab Bank has agreed to participate with 15 other banks in a \$200 million loan to China. The money will be used to finance the foreign currency needs for an international exhibition to be established in Peking.

Mr Shuman sees China as a rich field for investment. "The twenty-first century is China's century," he says. The country is looking for investment and Arab investors are well placed because they offer co-operation without political ties.

Overall, says Mr Shuman, China is a very safe place for investment. "I would advise anyone to invest if they have the chance," he says. And following his own advice, Mr Shuman will be having discussions in London this week on the formation of an investment holding company to be dedicated purely to invest in China. The company, which will have an initial capital of \$40-60 million, is a venture by individual Arab financiers but Mr Shuman says the Arab Bank could participate at a later date.

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JORDAN

PHOSPHATE COMPANY CHIEF VIEWS FUTURE PLANS

JN271555 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 27 Jun-3 Jul 83 p 14

[Report on interview with Wasif 'Azar, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company [JPMC], by Ibtisam Dababnah--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] "I hope the government will decide to sell its shares in the JPMC to the private investors", says Mr Wasif 'Azar, the general director of the JPMC. "This will be a very good and encouraging step to them, but a decision to this effect can be taken only by the government itself."

Mr 'Azar pointed out that the JPMC achieved a profit of JD 12,278,203 by the end of the year 1984 compared to JD 8,697,892 in 1983. "Such a profit was expected," he said.

The volume of sales increased also gradually in the last ten years. In 1984 it reached 5.67 million tonnes compared to 1.46 million in 1974, and thus registered an increase of 385 percent. Moreover, the volume of production also was increased in the last ten years. It has multiplied more than four times than the production in 1973. The production in 1962 was only 600,000 tonnes compared to 850,000 tonnes in 1966. It increased to 1.6 million tonnes in 1974 and then to 3.9 million tonnes in 1980.

The following is the break-up of the existing production capacity of 6 million tonnes for the three mines: al-Rusayfah mine 0.8 million tonnes; al-Hassa mine 3.2 million tonnes; al-Abyad mine 2.0 million tonnes.

The JPMC plans to increase its production from its existing mines to more than 6.5 million tonnes per year under the current five-year plan 1981-1985.

Mr 'Azar said that Jordanian phosphate is exported now to more than 30 countries worldwide. Jordan comes the third country in the world that exports phosphate in large quantities after Morocco and the USA. The volume of phosphate exported in 1974 was 1.115 million tonnes compared to 4.695 million tonnes in 1984, registering an increase of 26.9 percent over the year 1983.

Mr 'Azar explained that the value of phosphate stock by the end of 1984 amounted to JD 7.9 million, i.e. 15 percent of the traded assets value compared to JD 13.1 million by the end of 1983--28.6 percent of the total

assets value. The figures show a tangible decrease in the value of phosphate stock. Notwithstanding, the amount of stocked phosphate increased from 1,692,014 tonnes in 1983 to 2,313,719 tonnes in 1984. Mr 'Azar said that the reason for this reduction is the fall in the phosphate prices in the world market and the large quantity (about 750,000 tonnes) of Rusayfah output is almost of an unmarketable kind.

About the developments of the Compound Fertilizer Plant to be established in Aqaba, Mr 'Azar said that feasibility study for a plant was completed last month by a French consulting firm "Krebs" and the study now is under evaluation by a technical committee that includes parties from the JPMC, the Arab Potash Company and the Fertilizers Company. He added that this project is considered as a regional one. The reason behind choosing Jordan as the centre for the plant is because of Jordan's strategic location wherefrom the products can be exported to both African and Asian countries.

Concerning the expansion programme that the JPMC has in the current five-year plan, he said that the first step is the construction of a new mill-site at Rusayfah with a capacity of about one million tonnes per year to replace the old millsite. Second will be construction of a fourth production line at al-Abyad mine with a capacity of 0.5 MTPY to raise its production to reach 2 MTPY. And third improve the existing mining and processing facilities in al-Hassa mine, to bring its production capacity up to 3.5 MTPY, he concluded.

CSO: 4400/181

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIETS ADOPT NEW STRATEGY, WAR INTENSIFIES

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text] **PESHAWAR, Pakistan (Dispatches)** — The war in Afghanistan is taking a bitter new turn, according to the Mujahideen as frustrated Soviet commanders adopt a new strategy of destroying popular support for the Muslim freedom fighters who have resisted them for five years.

There are growing indications that the Soviet Union intends to unleash a major military offensive in Afghanistan this summer against the Islamic fighters who have bedeviled them since 1979. The brunt of the anticipated all-out offensive is expected to fall on the civilian population to destroy support for the Mujahids, who offers them the shelter, food and information they need to operate.

The Soviets are going to make their biggest effort. This will be a critical year," said Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezbi-i-Islami, one of the main Afghan guerrilla groups.

Mujahideen leaders, Western observers, statements by Moscow and Kabul along with a growing number of reports from inside Afghanistan indicate the war is moving into a new phase and Mujahideen and civilian casualties are soaring.

"The war is going to get much bloodier," said one western observer.

"Since Gorbachev came to power we have seen the intensification of the war. He has shown his intentions with more and more attacks on civilians," said Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of Jamiat-I-Islami, regarded as the most effective of the Mujahideen groups because of its string of victories.

Professor Sayed Majrooh, head of the Afghan Information Center, an independent group that monitors events inside Afghanistan, said reports coming across the border all describe a new determination in Soviet military activity.

"It is quite evident that since Gorbachev came to power that they've increased their offensive on every front," he said.

"We think the Soviet military is telling the leadership that they have been given an impossible task with inadequate resources now they want to do it their way," one diplomat said.

Depopulation Tactics Used

Soviet military efforts are focusing on destroying popular support for the Mujahids and closing as much of the Pakistan border as possible to impede the flow the

Mujahideen and weapons.

Yunis Khalis, a top Mujahideen commander, said the Soviets are employing depopulation tactics to destroy support for the Mujahideen.

Soviet and Afghan war planes are carpet-bombing villages in Mujahideen areas, and helicopter gunships and ground forces finish off the work by burning houses, firing on civilians and destroying crops and irrigation canals, he said.

They will kill more and more people to try and keep control," he said.

Some 3 million Afghans out of a population of 20 million already have fled to Pakistan and Iran and many more have gone to major cities such as Kabul to escape the fighting and destruction.

Many more people will be forced to flee in the coming months, Khalis said.

The diplomats and Mujahideen commanders say only part of the Soviet forces are on combat duty at any one time and most are tied down guarding installations. This is expected to change this summer as Soviet commanders put every man they can into the field.

"There is a growing Russian commitment in terms of troops and aggressive operations," one diplomat said.

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIETS LAUNCH MAJOR OFFENSIVE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 May 85 pp 1-2

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, May 28 (Dispatches) — Thousands of Soviet troops backed by tanks and aircraft have launched one of the biggest offensives of the Afghan war to try to seal the Pakistan border, and there are reports of major new atrocities, western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, said a major Soviet military force supported by scores of jet fighters and helicopter gunships had launched an offensive in the Kunar Valley near the Pakistani border. The offensive apparently was intended to cut the flow of arms and supplies across the border and prevent major attacks by Islamic fighters this summer, the sources said.

Afghan Mujahideen officials told reporters that major fighting was raging in the Kunar region and that large Soviet armored columns were trying to punch their way through Mujahideen defenses. Part of the Soviets' aim is to relieve a besieged garrison at the border town of Barikot, the Mujahideen said.

The diplomatic sources reported that large Soviet

and Afghan government military formations have been moving out of Kabul since mid-May, headed for the border. Large numbers of combat and transport aircraft also were moving through the capital's airport, moving up supplies and troops to Kunar and providing ground support, the sources said.

Reports from the Kunar Valley said the upper and middle portions of the valley were being repeatedly hit by Soviet and Afghan aircraft and there had been heavy bombing throughout the area, the diplomatic sources said.

Brutal Acts

New reports also have been received of Soviet atrocities against civilians in counter-insurgency operations, the sources said.

Several reports had been received that more than 100 men, women and children were killed May 13 when Soviet aircraft bombed Irkh Khan village in reprisal for Mujahideen operations in Laghman Province, the diplomats said.

Soviet troops also reportedly attacked and ransacked the nearby village of Gargha'i a few days later and killed civilians, the sources

said. Some of the Soviet soldiers broke into the village mosque, where women and children were hiding, and killed everyone except for some younger women who were abducted, they said.

There have been numerous reports from Mujahideen, western sources and others in recent weeks of widespread atrocities. Recent reports indicated that more than 1,000 people were killed in reprisal raids on a dozen villages in the Laghman region.

Across the rest of Afghanistan, the western sources said Tuesday, there was only moderate fighting, consisting mainly of scattered Muslim freedom fighter attacks on government outposts and convoys.

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET FORCES ENTER KUNAR VALLEY

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, June 2 (Dispatches) — Soviet paratroopers have been hurled into the battle for Afghanistan's strategic Kunar Valley and Soviet armored forces have seized half the valley after weeklong fighting, Mujahideen groups reported Sunday.

The groups said Soviet paratroopers had been used over the weekend to seize ground ahead of advancing Soviet columns and capture hilltops overlooking the valley.

Forty Soviet helicopters dropped hundreds of paratroopers in one attack, Mujahideen group reported from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar.

The Afghan Information Center, private group of refugee Afghan academics, reported that the latest information from nearby Kunar province in eastern Afghanistan indicated that the Soviet forces were now halfway in the valley about 16 miles (25 km) of the besieged Afghan army garrison in the border town of Barikot.

Afghan Mujahideen groups reported that Soviet jets and helicopter gunships were continuing to pound the valley in front of their advancing troops.

Scores of aircraft have bombed and rocketed the valley, forcing Mujahideen forces to abandon several fortified strongpoints, the groups said.

Sayed Majrooh, head of the Afghan Information Center, said the slightly armed Mujahideen, could do nothing in the face of the aerial attacks and the advancing Soviet armored columns.

More than 10,000 Soviet troops and an entire armored division, are advancing up the valley in the first stage of a major Soviet offensive to close the Pakistani border Mujahideen commanders said.

A second, large Soviet force is assembling farther to the west and south in Paktia Province.

In a week of heavy fighting, the Soviet forces have advanced about 15 miles (24 km) in the Kunar Valley towards Barikot, Majrooh said. Previous attempts to breakthrough to Barikot in the last two summers never gained more than five miles

(eight kilometer) before being forced to turn back in the face of heavy Mujahideen resistance, Majrooh said.

Barikot which is right on the Pakistani border, has been supplied by air since the siege began in 1981.

The Pakistani government, meanwhile, announced Sunday that four Afghan warplanes violated Pakistani air space and fired rockets at Afghan refugee camps in the west of the country.

Near the city of Quetta two bombs also were dropped, but there were no casualties, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign ministry and given a strong protest, the ministry said.

The ministry said the attack came Wednesday, but did not explain why it was not announced until Sunday. An attack by Afghan MiG-19s on a Pakistani border village that left 11 dead on Friday was revealed the same day and a formal protest issued Saturday.

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO SEAL PAKISTAN BORDER

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 1 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 1 (Dispatches)--Mujahideen fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan said they abandoned several strong points Saturday as Soviet Jets and tanks pressed an attack in the strategic Kunar Valley. Neighboring Pakistan charged that aircraft had attacked its territory, killing 11 people.

Western intelligence sources confirmed that a Soviet armored division of more than 10,000 men was involved in a major offensive designed to relieve a besieged garrison and seal the Pakistani border.

The government of Pakistan summoned the Afghan charge d'affairs to the foreign ministry Saturday and handed him a strong note of protest over a reported attack by Afghan warplanes.

The ministry said eight MiG-19s bombed and rocketed the village of Sweer Friday, killing 11 people and injuring 31 others. The planes dropped bombs that destroyed houses and killed livestock, the ministry said.

Sweer is just across the border from Kunar Province and near the Afghan town of Barikot, where an Afghan army garrison has been besieged for a year. The Soviet force advancing up the Kunar Valley is reportedly trying to relieve Barikot.

Afghan Mujahideen are fighting their country's pro-Soviet government and a Soviet occupation army. The Soviet Union sent troops across the Afghan border in 1979, presiding over the overthrow of the Marxist leader and his replacement by another. An estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers are now in Afghanistan.

Mujahideen Bases Damaged

Meanwhile Hezbi-I-Islami, one of the main Afghan Mujahideen groups, said its strongpoints at Kariyal and Dobi were heavily damaged in Soviet air raids and that the Mujahideen were forced to abandon fortifications in the area.

Three Mujahideen were martyred and 28 wounded, the group said.

Soviet aircraft also launched a major attack on the village of Showm Kali, flattening most of the homes and causing numerous civilian casualties, Hezbi-I-Islami said. The group did not say how many people died.

Hezbi-I-Islami said its fighters had staged four attacks on Soviet columns in the Kunar Valley in the past week. The convoys included more than 300 army trucks loaded with supplies, Hezbi-I-Islami said, but it did not say if the attacks had been successful.

Afghan Mujahideen commanders and the western intelligence sources, who declined to be identified, say the Soviet attack is the first stage of an offensive to seal the Pakistani border and cut Mujahideen supply routes.

A second Soviet force is assembling to the west of Kunar Province for a major assault on Paktia Province, also a major route for freedom fighters and supply columns, the sources said.

CSO: 4600/489

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN WARNS AGAINST AIR VIOLATION

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 May 85 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 29 (Dispatches)--Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has warned that Pakistan has the means and determination to strike back if Afghanistan continues to violate Pakistani air space.

Pakistani newspapers reported Wednesday that Khan made the warning the previous day in the national assembly when asked what the government was doing about frequent attacks and incursions by Afghan warplanes. Pakistan has charged repeatedly that Afghan warplanes have bombed and rocketed its territory.

Khan told the assembly the government was determined to defend national territory and none of the country's neighbors should doubt its determination.

Khan did not specify what action the government would take, but Pakistani officials have been saying privately the Pakistani air force may be ordered to shoot down an intruding Afghan warplane as a warning.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are strained. Afghan Mujahideen fighting the Communist government of their country operate from bases in Pakistan while Islamabad has demanded the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet troops based in Afghanistan.

The Afghan government has rejected Pakistani charges that its planes have violated Pakistani territory and replied with charges that Pakistan has repeatedly shelled Afghan territory.

CSO: 4600/489

AFGHANISTAN

MUJAHIDIN DOWN SOVIET COPTER

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 May 85 pp 1-2

[Text] New Delhi, May 29 (Dispatches)--Muslim fighters battling the Soviet-backed Afghan government shot down a Soviet helicopter, destroyed four Soviet tanks and burned down a provincial governor's office, a western diplomat said Tuesday.

The diplomat, who asked that his name be withheld, also quoted Mujahideen reports saying Soviet soldiers killed 17 people at a Hindu temple in the Mullah Shah area of Kabul on May 19.

The diplomat, quoting Mujahideen sources, said the Muslim freedom fighters shot down a Soviet helicopter on May 24 in the Shomali Valley. He could provide no more details.

He also cited reports of heavy fighting in the Panjsher Valley, a traditional Mujahideen stronghold northeast of the Afghan capital of Kabul, but could provide no details.

The Mujahideen reportedly attacked a Soviet convoy near the Salang Pass--the major supply route to the Soviet border--on May 21. The diplomat said five Soviet soldiers were killed and three tanks destroyed.

Another Mujahideen group ambushed a Soviet convoy near Udkhel, east of Kabul, on May 21, destroying a tank and wounding several Soviet soldiers.

The Mujahideen killed five government soldiers in a May 18 attack on an Afghan military post on the Kabul-Ghazni Road. Mujahideen reported killing two government soldiers May 17 near Bagrimal, southeast of Kabul, the diplomat said.

He said the Mujahideen attacked and burned down the governor's office in Herat, capital of Herat Province. He could not say whether the governor was at the office at the time of the attack.

Scattered fighting was reported during the week in other areas of Afghanistan, where Muslim freedom fighters are trying to oust 115,000 Soviet troops who invaded the country more than five years ago and installed a pro-Soviet government in Kabul.

U. N. Initiative Welcomed

Reports from Ottawa (Canada) said a Soviet politburo member said Tuesday he would welcome a U. N. initiative aimed at withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Vitali Vorotnikov, a member of the ruling Soviet Politburo, made the comments during an hour-long exchange with the Canadian Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and a House of Commons Committee on External Affairs and National Defense.

"Vorotnikov said he would welcome a U. N. initiative that would bring the Afghanistan situation to a settlement, enabling them to get their troops out," said Reg Stackhouse, a member of the House of Commons Committee who attended the session.

Vorotnikov spoke in Russian throughout the exchange and made the comment in reply to a question.

Stackhouse said he was surprised at the comment "because I didn't see why they would need the U. N. to get their troops out."

The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan more than five years ago and installed a pro-Moscow government in Kabul. Since then, the Soviet and Afghan government troops have met fierce resistance from Muslim rebels and casualties have been high on both sides.

Soviet troops in the country numbered between 105,000 and 110,000 from 1982 to 1984, but were estimated to have increased this year to about 150,000.

A New Democrat member of parliament, Pauline Jewett, said Vorotnikov expressed hope that U. S. discussions with the Soviet Union and Pakistan would lead to a resolution of the conflict.

The U. N. General Assembly initiated negotiations in 1982 aimed at the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the return of the more than three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan to their homeland and international guarantees of non-interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

Vorotnikov, who arrived Sunday in Ottawa, was held private meetings with External Affairs Minister Joe Clark and Prime Minister Mulroney.

CSO: 4600/489

AFGHANISTAN

POLITBURO ADOPTS MEASURES FOR CONSOLIDATING RESULTS OF LOYA JIRGAH

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 28 May 85 pp 1-2

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--In the session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, held on May 6, Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, comprehensively evaluated the results of the historical Loya Jirgah (grand assembly) convened from April 23 to 25, 1985. Consequently measures and directives have been adopted for all party and state organs aimed at consolidating the results of the Loya Jirgah and accomplishing constant and persistent work for implementing its historically important decisions. We publish here under the summary of the said evaluations, measures and directives.

The country-wide national Loya Jirgah, held from April 23 to 25, 1985 in Kabul city, is regarded as a great socio-political event in the life of the DRA, and is of great importance both from the domestic and international points of view.

In the process of elections of representatives to the Loya Jirgah in provincial Jirgahs and gatherings, and the work of all party and state organs for the convocation of the traditional Loya Jirgah in Kabul city, we have been convinced that the majority of the people of the DRA unswervingly support the objectives and tasks of the April Revolution, all revolutionary measures adopted for building a new society.

The Loya Jirgah supported the domestic and foreign policies of the PDPA and the Government of the DRA, and specifically confirmed the leading role of our prideful party, the PDPA, in all walks of life, work and struggle of all strata of the Afghan society, the significance of the timely internationalist assistance of our great neighbour, the Soviet union, in the defence of independence, national sovereignty and freedom of the our country and people against the intrigues and interferences of imperialist forces headed by the United States of America, Chinese hegemonism and the reaction of the region.

As a result of the convening of the Loya Jirgah and its decisions, a qualitatively new political situation has emerged on the scene in the country. It is the manifestation of the support of all patriotic people, all strata of our society to the materialisation of revolutionary transformations, the successful solution of basic problems of the country's life, i.e., the annihilation of the counter-revolution, sealing the borders of the DRA, maintenance of peace and tranquility throughout our homeland.

In order to materialise the results of the Loya Jirgah in a high political manner under such conditions in which the new situation, i.e. the stimulation of masses has come into being, the Central Committee of the PDPA seriously demands from all party organisations and state organs, party activists and state employees, and the armed forces to consciously, actively and energetically approach to the issues related to the political, mass and publicity work among all strata of our people. They should bear in mind that by attracting the masses of workers, peasants, representatives of nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups, clergymen, intellectuals, representatives of national capital and the entire people as a whole, the work of expansion of social pillars of the revolution and absolute isolation of the counter-revolution and its complete annihilation, can be rapidly accomplished in the country.

In order to successfully accomplish the said basic tasks, work should be conducted in localities with the representatives of the Loya Jirgah and the provincial jirgahs so that they should be mobilized and attracted to the participation in the state institutions through elections or to the appointment of most deserving representatives of the people to state posts in provinces, districts, in the National Fatherland Front and other social organisations, and the command of the voluntary units. To further raise the leading role of the party among the masses and to consolidate its cohesion with the people, the attraction of reputable figures and best representatives of local inhabitants should be taken into consideration in fulfilling this important task.

In the opinion of the party, the implementation of the results of the Loya Jirgah under the new political conditions means the accomplishment of purposeful work for strengthening and raising the combat ability of our armed forces. The best time has come for the great and patriotic enthusiasm of masses to be utilized for seriously improving the recruitment to the armed forces and the upgrading the level of preparedness of the armed forces.

The PDPA CC attaches great importance to the further acceleration of work with the border tribes. It is an important task for all nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups to reiterate in their Jirgahs the results of the Loya Jirgah and contribute their part to the joint struggle of the Afghan people for peace and tranquillity in the country.

The participation of tribes and nationalities is an important and vital link in accomplishing the important task of safeguarding the borders of our homeland against the foreign interference and aggression by Pakistan and Iran, in ensuring security and order in residential areas and extending assistance to the party and state in introducing the revolutionary transformations, creating conditions for adoption of effective socio-economic measure for tribes and the entire inhabitants of border areas by the Government of the DRA.

The PDPA CC draws the attention of all party organs and responsible party cadres in localities to the serious necessity of coordinating all political and military measures aimed at the complete annihilation of the irreconcilable and mercenary bands and the prevention of penetration of the lackeys of USA and other flunkies into our sacred soil. The task is the undeviating implementation of the requirements of the PDPA CC in further accelerating the

implementation of the complex plans of the struggle against the counter-revolution, completely cleaning the country from the existence of bands, ensuring the sealing of borders aimed at creating necessary conditions for tranquil life and work, for the prosperity of every family, our society and state.

Now the people know better than in the past that our revolutionary party strictly observes and will observe the traditions and customs of all nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups, ensures equality and complete freedom for all members of the society, pays respect for and supports the sacred religion of Islam and the religious and cultural customs of our people.

The Loya Jirgah proclaimed the full trust in and understanding of the policy of our party, and we, soldiers of our revolutionary party, are obliged to materialise this great trust of our people in practice, and to be an example of revolutionary understanding and awareness of the significance of the national-democratic essence of the Revolution.

The PDPA CC, by pointing out to the principled conclusions of the party drawn from the results of the inspiring country-wide national gathering--our prideful Loya Jirgah seriously demands all full-fledged and probationary members of the party, party committees, responsible officials of the state and the armed forces to fulfil accurately their assigned tasks, and to display honesty, devotion and sacrifice before the sacred trust of the people and their best representatives. We ought to be confidently aware of the experience of the history. This experience shows that no party can ensure the complete accomplishment of tasks of introducing the revolutionary transformations of the society without a durable discipline, unity of action and thought, amiability among its people and friendliness with fellow militants. The interests of the people are sacred for all revolutionary parties. The capability of the vanguard of the working people and every soldier of the party in materialising the revolutionary aspirations, can ensure the final victory in putting into practice the cause for which we live and struggle. The dedicated and heroic work of the party and all its representatives among the masses constitutes the foundations of our victory.

The basic demand of the PDPA is that by realising the present favourable political situation and the firm will of our people for the complete annihilation of the counter-revolution, and end must be put to the existence of the counter-revolution in the country, and by fully understanding the norms and goals of the party for the final victory, decisive work must be energetically carried out. For achieving this end, the following is considered necessary.

The ranks of the party should grow through the attraction of best patriots and soldiers of our people to them. More attention should be paid to the qualitative strengthening of the ranks of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan, attraction of youth to military affairs and political work among the masses.

The level of political activities of all party organisations, attraction of masses to the participation in the revolutionary process through strengthening the role of the National Fatherland Front and all social organisations must be raised.

The increase of combat capability of our armed forces and recruitment to the army, the growth of awareness of every army officer in the struggle against the counter-revolution, the spirit of belonging to the people and living in the interests of the people, should be ensured.

All nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups are with their party, revolution and homeland--the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The party and the state as a united bastion, are fighting against servants of imperialism and reaction, and will ensure peace in their sacred soil.

The PDPA CC calls on the entire party, heads of party, state organs and social organisations, officers of the armed forces to draw necessary conclusions from the results of the Loya Jirgah, this embodiment of the will of the people, to strengthen the political work among the masses and materialise its decisions with their allsided activities.

CSO: 4600/496

19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY MAJOR STATE OBJECTIVE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 8 Jun 85 pp 1-2

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--In order to adopt measures for accelerating the process of eradication of illiteracy and the afterward development of education in the DRA, a joint session of the National Commission for Eradication of Illiteracy was held on Thursday morning in the hall of the Council of Ministers.

Sultan Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, Maj. General Mohammad Rafie, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, and Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, Najibullah, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and General President of the State Information Services, Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the Politburo of the party CC and Minister of Communications, Mahmoud Baryali, alternate member of the Politburo and Secretary of the PDPA CC, Zohoor Razmjo, alternate member of the PDPA CC Politburo and Secretary of Kabul city Party Committee, Lt. General Mohammad Yaseen Sadeqi, Secretary of the PDPA CC and General President of the Political Affairs Department of the Armed Forces, some members of the PDPA CC, some departmental heads of the PDPA CC, ministers and presidents of state committees and institutions, governors and heads of publicity, extension and education departments of provincial party committees, and heads of education and literacy departments in provinces attended the session.

At the outset, delivering a speech on acquainting the masses with the new and progressive culture and process of expansion of the cultural revolution in the DRA, Sultan Ali Keshtmand said: "Struggle against illiteracy is one of the main objectives of our revolution. The cultural revolution constitutes one of the main aspects of the national-democratic April Revolution, whose content consists of re-organising the whole educational system and expansion of literacy movement throughout the country.

"The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the DRA consider the growth of the popular education in the country as one of the great political cause and significant work.

"Enhancing the level of knowledge and culture of the people, their training in the high spirit of patriotism and loyalty to the aspirations of the Revolution, consistency in the struggle against the counter-revolution, reaction and

imperialism are the issues laying before us parallel to the socio-economic growth of the country. Because, without the eradication of cultural backwardness among masses, it is impossible to successfully solve the political issues, to found material and technical bases of the new society, to raise the work efficiency and to organise the accurate state management and economy. The rapid and purposeful enhancement of educational and cultural level of the masses, first and foremost the workers and working peasants, opening the prospects for the growth of the popular talents, awakening the awareness of working people for the active participation in building the new society and other training as conscious revolutionary fighters, need, in the first place, extended struggle against illiteracy, which is confronting the broad masses of our people, and is the legacy of the past.

"The issue related to the continuation of re-organising the educational system in the country, which includes the expansion of literacy movements as well, was extensively discussed recently by the Politburo of the PDPA CC, and concrete decisions on the consequent development and expansion of the new educational system, were adopted in this connection.

"The necessity for introduction of a new educational system was specified in the 'Programme of Action, of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and other party documents, decrees of the Revolutionary Council and the decisions of the Council of Ministers of the DRA. In the course of recent years, party committees and social organisations have been paying more attention to the expansion of the new educational system.

Comparative improvement has occurred in the work of the Ministry of Education and its organs in localities as regards the implementation of this system. In the process of political, socio-economic transformations in the country, new experiences have been accumulated in the field of changing the educational system, and considerable work has been accomplished in eradicating illiteracy".

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers talked in detail on the work of party and state organs and social organisations in the literacy movement and noted concrete measures for the improvement of work, acceleration and expansion of the literacy movement in the country.

In this session Zohor Razmjo, Lt. General Mohammad Yassin Sadeqi, Abdul Samad Qavumi, Minister of Education, in their speeches, talked about the work experience of Kabul City Party Committee in eradicating illiteracy in Kabul city, results of the implementation of the programme of eradication of illiteracy in the army, experiences in the and howabouts of the implementation of the resolution of the PDPA CC and the state of the DRA on eradication of illiteracy and the results of literacy activities in the field of education.

Similarly, Sattar Purdeli, President of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan, Farid Mazdak, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan, Mohammad Farouq, General President of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Interior, Fazl Ahmad Toghian, Governor of Kabul, Mohammad Anwar Hasil, Governor of Paktia and

Ghulam Sakhi Sailani, President of the Department of Education of Laghman Province, spoke on the role of trade unions in the process of education and expansion of literacy movement, formation of literacy brigades of the DYOA and its impact on the improvement of the process of eradication of illiteracy in the DRA, generalization of experience gained in all social organisations, howabouts of the acceleration of the process of eradication of illiteracy among the police units, howabouts of the work of the commissions for eradication of illiteracy of Kabul and Paktia provinces, and the proposed measures for the removal of the existing shortcomings in literacy movement.

Afterwards, Abdullah Spantgar, Head of the Publicity, Extension and Education Department of the PDPA CC, explained the work procedure of the National Commission for the Eradication of Illiteracy in the DRA, and introduced the committees of the national commission and its branch committees.

Later, Zahir Mowaffaq, Vice-President of the Administrative Department of the council of Ministers, presented to the session the draft of the decision of the session for adopting measures for the acceleration of the process of eradication of illiteracy and the consequent growth of education in the DRA. After inserting some proposals presented by the participants the draft of the decision was unanimously endorsed by the session.

At the end, evaluating the work of the session, Mahmoud Baryalai said: "Struggle for the eradication of illiteracy is regarded as one of the major objectives of the April Revolution. We cannot eradicate illiteracy in the country with bureaucratic methods. A universal movement should be launched for eradicating illiteracy with the direct participation of people themselves, party, state and social organisations. All available possibilities should be used for uprooting this ominous and shameful legacy of the past rotten regimes."

Mahmoud Baryalai added: "The unpopular regimes of the past were seeing their survival in the preservation of illiteracy. Therefore, they did not want the door of knowledge and light to be open for the people. The final victory of the humane objectives of our April Revolution has a direct and unshakable link with the eradication of illiteracy: Therefore, the struggle against illiteracy should be changed into a conscientious task of every party member, every patriot and every revolutionary. And, all forces should take part in the universal movement of struggle against illiteracy." pl, itcrallyy-!yeti shr hmh [as printed]

Mahmoud Baryalai further added: "Unfortunately, some responsible party and state officials do not pay serious attention to this issue. Necessary and correct cooperation is not rendered to the literacy process in some of the ministries and state institutions. Such a state of affairs should be changed from the root. The struggle against illiteracy should be changed into one of the prime and undelagable party and state tasks. Every kind of easy-going and negligence towards this end is unforgiveable and intolerable."

According to an informed source in the course of the years after the Revolution over 1.15 million people have graduated from the literacy courses

including the 150,000 graduates in the last Afghan year (ended on March 20, 1985). The number of the last year graduates shows seven per cent increase as compared to the year 1362 HS (1983).

The source added that at present over 400,000 people are attending 20,000 literacy courses throughout the country. As many as three million volumes of text-books were printed and put at the disposal of interested people so far.

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19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

ATTENTION GIVEN TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 26 May 85 p 4

[Text] According to the report of the Education Directorate of Badakhshan Province, 66 schools attended by 21, 173 boy and girl students are functioning there. As many as 330 students graduated last year from the high school. Some of the students after passing the entrance exams are admitted to higher education institutions, and others yet engaged in other occupations.

With a view to enhance the quality of the new educational system, methodological seminars have been regularly held. The teachers have attended them with a desire to upgrade the level of their knowledge and experiences.

The Education Director of the Province said in an interview that the victory of the April Revolution for the first time has provided the possibilities and conditions for women to participate in building a new society. The campaign for eradication of illiteracy among women is one of the pressing tasks in the sphere of generalisation of education. Profound attention has been paid to this task in the province. A considerable number of women are now following literacy courses in the province.

Bearing in mind, the importance of this issue, an adults school was recently established in the province wherein those deprived of literacy, due to some reasons in the past are following their study.

Similarly, he continued a school destroyed by the counter-revolution in Sare Hauz village of Baharak district is reactivated.

Constant attention is being paid to enhancing the qualitative level of the knowledge as well as establishment of schools and literacy course. The inhabitants of the province greatly contribute to this cause, therefore, the process of education is successfully forging ahead, the director concluded.

CSO: 4600/500

AFGHANISTAN

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN INVOLVES TRAINING IN SOVIET UNION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] When we talk of children we refer to those future men and women who will build a new society.

The life of children, like that of all the working people of Afghanistan, is undergoing after the victory of the April Revolution and its new phase profound transformations. The Revolution has placed the prosperity of children among its priority tasks and has opened the horizons of peace and well-being before them.

The party and our revolutionary state, in line with the Program of Action of the PDPA and the fundamental Principles of the DRA, have provided wide prospects for the betterment of the life of children and take practical steps forward in this respect.

Extensive measures have been adopted for defence and restoring of rights, health as well as ensuring prosperity and sound rearing of children. The Pioneer Organisation has been founded for mobilizing and sound upbringing of children which has now changed in to a gathering place of country's pioneers.

As many as 100 thousand children are now mobilised in the ranks of the Organisation. Paralell to its pioners' palaces have started function- [part of text missing] uiftful work in training the pioneers in a spirit of patriotism and internationalism.

In order to take care of the children of martyrs and orphans, the Watan Nursery was set up. In addition to the Nursery established in the capital, by now there also exist eight nurseries in the provinces which are also engaged in training children.

The nurseries are centres of warmth and sincerity for the orphaned children deprived by the counter-revolution of their parental love.

Over one thousand children were sent last year through the Watan Nursery for studies to the Soviet Union. Radical changes have occured after the Revolution in the education system.

For the first time after the Revolution, the children receive education in their mother tongues. Close attention has been paid to the expansion of the network of kindergartens. As many as 105 residential and working site kindergartens have so far been set up which would be increased to 109 by the end of this year.

Paying close attention to health and well-being of children makes up another aspect of the activities of the party and our revolutionary state. Hospitals and child care branches have been opened [part of text missing] effective measures have been put into effect for expansion of the clinics of child and mother health care.

A large number of children get recreation in the capital and provinces of the country. The Afghan children also take active part in pioneers' camps and festivals held in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. They exchange experiences with the children of the world in the said camps and festivals.

The gains of the Revolution would have been much greater had there not been the undeclared war of imperialism and reaction against our homeland and revolution. The children see for themselves the black faces of the counter-revolution who have committed numerous crimes against our people.

The counter-revolution sets fire on schools on the orders of their imperialist masters and obstruct the education process of the children of the working people. But our revolutionary state with all its might provides the education facilities and builds and repairs schools.

During the current year over 1,100 are functioning all over the country. As many as 115 thousand children have this year been admitted to the first grade which shows [part of text missing] mpared with the last year.

The Revolution has entrusted the party members, DYOA members who lead the Pioneers Organisation and all patriots with the priority tasks of taking care of children. The children should be brought up in the spirit of love for homeland and labour.

They should always respect their parents who bravely defend the Revolution and have laid the foundations of a new society. The children should be trained in the spirit of patriotism, internationalism, deep love and respect for the working man.

They should do their best in strengthening the solidarity with the children of our planet, the children of the fraternal socialist countries, first and foremost the children of the Soviet Union, and should be persistent fighters for peace and social justice.

Taking care of children means paying attention to the future of our homeland.

We consider the future of our children as the future of our country. Today and tomorrow of our children are linked with the conditions of their life, rearing and education. Therefore, we all deem ourselves duty-bound to provide the best possibilities for the children [part of text missing]

CSO: 4600/495

AFGHANISTAN

EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--An agreement has been signed here on the teaching of Afghan citizens at Soviet educational establishments. Under the agreement signed, Soviet organizations will continue to admit Afghan citizens to be educated in the USSR.

The policy of the accelerated development of the national economy adopted by Afghanistan requires a great number of highly skilled specialists. Leaders of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan devote serious attention to the training of the national personnel.

The Soviet Union renders extensive assistance to Afghanistan in resolving this major problem. After the April Revolution eight vocational schools to train specialists for various branches of national economy were created in Afghanistan with Soviet assistance. The USSR built and passed over to the people of Afghanistan as a gift the Kabul automotive technical school and the mining and oil technical school in Mazar-e-Sharif. These educational establishments have trained a total of over 1,500 specialists working at various mills and factories of Afghanistan.

Similarly, documents on Soviet gratuitous assistance to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the struggle against locusts over a period of 12 months was signed here yesterday.

Soviet specialists closely cooperated with their Afghan colleagues in the course of sixty days taking measures against Moroccan locusts on an area of 197,000 hectares, including in the Balkh, Samangan, Baghlan and Kunduz provinces.

These timely measures helped prevent damage to crops and plantings.

The signing of today's document is a new example of the Soviet Union's unselfish assistance to the friendly people of Afghanistan. It clearly confirms the fact that Soviet assistance accords with the needs and interests of the Afghan people, enhances the solution of that country's pressing tasks of social and economic development.

The documents were signed by Sarwar Mangal, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and President of the State Planning Committee of the DRA and Alexander Petrov, counsellor for economic affairs of the Soviet embassy to the DRA.

19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

NETWORK OF KINDERGARTENS EXPANDING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 27 May 85 p 4

[Text] Children are our future. The party and state have provided necessary possibilities for the sound upbringing of children.

The establishment and expansion of kindergartens and nurseries to working spots and residential localities are among the measures for this end.

Giving information in this respect the head of the department of kindergartens said to a reporter that the kindergartens department has undertaken necessary measures for sound and all-sided rearing of children after the victory of the April Revolution.

Right now, 105 kindergartens are functioning in the country. Out of them 81 are in the capital having the capacity of accommodating 11,000 children and 24 are in the provinces which can serve around 900 children.

The total number of the kindergartens prior to the Revolution reached only 28, while four kindergartens having the capacity of 1,250 children have been set up only in the course of the first month of the current Afghan year.

The Department of Kindergartens due to its constant attention paid to sound rearing of children of the working people, plans to set up during the current year ten new kindergartens in residential areas with a capacity of 2,500 children, 38 working spots kindergartens with a capacity of 1,900 children and 14 kindergartens of residential areas in provinces with a capacity of 2,100 children.

Simultaneously with the expansion of the network of kindergartens and nurseries the number of health centres and policlinics will be also increased in order to closely control the health condition of children in kindergartens.

Currently, there exist health clinics at the vicinity of every kindergarten which strictly supervise the health condition of children.

Since children of different ages are gathered in kindergartens and nurseries, thus, the department holds educational and training seminars for the staff of the kindergartens where methods of teaching fundamentals of school knowledge are also included.

It is envisaged in the current year plan to hold a six-month course for the kindergarten teachers so that to get them acquainted with the new educational system. The children are taught arithmetic, practical artistic and sports activities by the skilful and professional teachers.

CSO: 4600/495

AFGHANISTAN

NEW LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT REACHED IN LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 10 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--The graduation of 1,150,000 compatriots from the literacy courses during the years after the Revolution is a testimony to the fact that our working people together with their party and revolutionary state would in the near future eradicate illiteracy from their homeland, and realise this humane goal.

With better understanding of the benefits of literacy now, our working people, including men and women, young and old, deprived of literacy in the past, join the literacy courses run by the party and social organisations, and other departments in all parts of the country.

No institution, factory or working site could be found where literacy courses are not conducted.

A crash work was launched during the two and a half months of the last Afghan year (ended on March 20, 1985) to realise the resolutions of the National Commission for Eradication of Illiteracy in the DRA directing for organising at least 150,000 people in literacy courses. The crash work carried out by members of party and social organisations of Kabul city, ministries and departments brought about good results. During this work, groups for literacy survey were also set up.

Moreover, meetings were held with the chiefs, clergy, preachers of the mosques, heads of the NFF local councils as well as influentials for drawing their greater contribution to the movement for eradication of illiteracy. Common sessions of the collectives of institutions in Kabul city were also convened for the same purpose.

The movement for eradication of illiteracy in Kabul city is rapidly forging ahead and this popular movement is warmly welcomed by all the working people who discharge their role as literacy activists in this movement.

As a result of this, crash work, 9,500 inhabitants of Kabul city registered their names in the literacy courses. Over 1,000 people voluntarily work with the literacy survey groups. Kabul citizens have put over 1,200 rooms of their residences at the disposal of literacy courses so that to meet the shortage of teaching classes.

The intensification of the process of eradication to illiteracy not only evoked the enthusiasm of individuals and families but brought about a great fervor in the institutions. They waged competitions for eradication of illiteracy under the slogan "Institutions with no illiterate".

Till the end of the last Afghan year for instance, 130 institutions in Kabul city could achieve great victories by their constant work in this sphere. The pioneers of this sphere were highly appreciated.

The school principals and teachers are assigned to mobilise the students of schools and lycees of the city in the movement for abolition of illiteracy, so that they could first of all encourage their illiterate family members to receive literacy.

In order to support financially the movement for eradication of illiteracy, a process of donation by the institutions and departments has been initiated.

A qualitative change has appeared in the educational content of the courses taught by volunteer teachers, mainly members of the party and social organisations.

The courses have now been changed into political enlightening centers upgrading the class and revolutionary awareness of the masses.

As a result of the joint efforts of the party and state organs, about 50,000 people graduated last year from the literacy courses in Kabul city.

Along with stepping up the movement for eradication of illiteracy, Kabul City Party Committee has organised a serious extensive work for enrolling all children at the age of 7 to the first grade of schools. The number of enrolled to the first grade of schools last year was much greater than that of the previous year. All children at school age were admitted to first grade of schools during the current academic year which shows a higher number comparing with the last year.

Right now, over 100,000 illiterate people are being taught in literacy courses in Kabul city by the teachers of literacy department as well as volunteer teachers from the party and social organisations.

CSO: 4600/501

19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL TRAINING OBJECTIVE OF DRA

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 9 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] The training of technical and vocational cadres forms one of the objectives of the party and state of the DRA. These cadres undergo scientific training and gain advanced experiences. Being equipped with the new knowledge, they serve for the welfare and building a flourishing society for their countrymen.

The Kabul Technicum is one of the rearing centres for the young cadres of the country. This institution, built in 1973 with gratuitous technical and economic assistance of the friendly Soviet Union, is a symbol of the Afghan-Soviet cooperation in the sphere of training national cadres.

Around 700 students have till now graduated in various branches from this institution.

As many as 1,100 students are receiving education in Kabul technicum now. It has 16 main and branch laboratories, lathe, electric and vehicle repair workshops as well as audio-visual and Russian language halls.

Sports ground, gymnasium, swimming pool and cinema are provided for all sided development of the students. The students make use of them during their leisure time.

In 1979, the procedure of defending the thesis was for the first time introduced so that graduates could defend their theses in a free and democratic atmosphere. Those graduates who could defend their theses in Russian language are in addition to diplomas given certificates of Russian interpreters.

In order to observe the process of defending theses by the graduates this correspondent paid a visit to a class. The students in the class were attentively listening to their classmates defending their theses. In front of the class a few tables were semi-circled for the jury body which was composed of three doctors and four masters.

The graduates of vehicles repair branch were defending their theses. Aminullah, a graduate of vehicles engine branch was nominated to defend his thesis. He was fluently responding to the questions posed by the audience.

Then, the correspondent paid a visit to metal works shop. The students in special work uniforms were attentively listening to the explanations given in certain fields by the instructor named Sayed Abas. The students also took notes of some important points.

In response to a question regarding the importance of practical work, one of the students said: "We put into practice whatever we study in theory".

CSO: 4600/501

AFGHANISTAN

OVER 600 LITERACY COURSES FUNCTION IN NANGARHAR

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 9 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--"For promotion of the cultural level of the masses and raising their educational standard in the country particularly eradication of illiteracy, this shameful legacy of the past decayed regimes, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have issued definite resolutions", this was stated by Ghulam Jan Gurbuz, head of the Literacy Directorate of Nangarhar Province. He added: "Under the present revolutionary circumstances in the country, improvement of the educational system and eradication of illiteracy, being the tasks of paramount importance are the focus of attention, of the party, government and people of Afghanistan.

"For acceleration of the literacy process, intensive and revolutionary work, imbued with revolutionary zest, enthusiasm and love for the people, has been started all over the country. To realise Decree No. 28 of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and other relevant resolutions of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, the Presidium of the RC and the Council of Ministers of the DRA, regarding vast eradication of illiteracy efficient steps have been taken.

Evaluating the role of the intellectuals, Ulema and preachers, regarding literacy movement in the province as high, Ghulam Jan Gurbuz, appreciated their interest and active participation in this national cause. "Some of the preachers in the course of the prayers urged the people to learn literacy, and the mosques, served and serve as favorable places for this purpose", he continued.

"More than 600 literacy courses are open in Nangarhar Province which provide opportunity for almost 14,000 people to learn how to read and write. The courses are functioning in eight districts and four subdistricts, and are being taught by 87 official and more than 600 volunteer teachers. Thirty-four special courses are held for peasants, 72 for workers and more than 140 courses for women. Only during the last year, from the literacy courses 540 persons graduated after finishing five month's studies", the incharge of the literacy affairs added.

After the new phase of the April Revolution, report the BIA, so far more than 1,150,000 people have graduated from the literacy courses. Only in 1362, more than 150,000 persons became literates.

Now more than 400,000 people are attending more than 20,000 courses all over the country.

AFGHANISTAN

14,000 GRADUATES INTRODUCED TO STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--Around 14,000 people, graduates of local and foreign educational institutions, etc. were introduced to state institutions, ministries and factories for employment by the State Committee for Labour and Social Security (SCLSS) in the course of 1363 HS (ended on March 20, 1985). This figure is unique in the history of employment in the country and shows an increase of 75 per cent as compared to the year 1362.

Stating the above, a Spokesman of the Committee added: "The State Committee for Labour and Social Security, being a central organ of state administration functions within the framework of the Council of Ministers of the DRA. This Committee assesses, controls and performs issues related to the regulation of work, forms of wage systems, the use of man power, insurance, presentation of legal consultations in the work of all categories of workers, employees and contract-based employees. As a whole, the activities of this Committee include the fields of manpower, employment, regulation of administrative affairs, management of social security, the right to work, organisation of work and wage, foreign relations and planning. And the said fields are divided into two categories, namely research and study, and executive tasks."

The spokesman further said: "Apart from accomplishing a series of valuable measures in improving work in different fields, and social security, the Committee also worked out some drafts and proposals on a series of extensive plans. Of which one can name as examples the beginning of the work on classification of occupations in the DRA, which has been unprecedented in the country so far, the draft proposals for gaining the approval of the Council of Ministries concerning the increment of the salary of apprentices, the salary of probation period of college students, the salary of those workers of the productive institutions who work permanently for a fixed period of time in night shifts, definition and regulation of tasks and obligations of employment committees in provinces in order to provide facilities for the inhabitants of the provinces and to raise the rate of employment of the institutions in provinces.

CSO: 4600/498

19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

CHANGES IN EDUCATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jun 85 pp 2, 4

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--Over 1,100 educational institutions are now functioning all over the country. Out of this number, 754 are primary and 332 secondary schools, four institutes of pedagogy and 21 religious high schools and a physical education institute.

In line with the cultural policy of the party and state, the Ministry of Education of the DRA, being a state organ responsible rearing for children, youth and training scientific cadres, has taken wide strided for the expansion of universal education system and eradication of illiteracy.

Despite the intrigues, destructions and arson of the educational institutions by the counter-revolutionary elements the Ministry of Education has put into practice with the hlep of people its plans aimed at revival of schools for development of new educational system.

After the victory of the April Revolution the system of education has undergone radical changes due to the socio-economic, political and cultural demands of our society and based on the scientific world out-look. The contents of education have been changed according to the need for the sound mental and physical development of students.

The qualitative improvement of education can be proved by its contents after its radical changes as well as by the results gained in the course of several educational terms. The objectivereality of the improvement of education has been obviously reflected in the educational level of the students.

As a result of general analysis, as the most important factors for improving education one can cite here the utilisation of fundamentals of the science of pedagogy and psychology, organising collective activities in schools and lycees through various committees with the active participation of students and teachers, granting to children of various nationalities the right of study in their mother tongues formulation of curriculum and implementation of a unified teaching program in the schools, upgrading the level of socio-political conscious of the students and teachers and, as a whole, training of the young generation in a spirit of loyalty to the homeland and revolution and so forth.

Notwithstanding the arson of a large number of schools and cultural institutions by the counter-revolutionary elements, today, the absolute majority of the school students, making use of the conducive conditions provided by the revolutionary state, follow their study.

For instance, over 655 thousand students were receiving education last year. Out of this figure, 546 thousand pupils attended primary schools, 99 thousand secondary schools, 5,800 under went education in teachers' training institutes, 3,300 in religious schools and 370 students in the institute of physical education.

Right now 22,500 teachers conduct the teaching affairs in schools throughout the country, out of which 14,800 are engaged in field of primary education, around seven thousand in the sphere of secondary education, 700 in Teachers' Training Institutes, religious high schools and physical education institute.

With a view to complete the teachers' specialisation and upgrade the level of their teaching skills, the Ministry of Education has worked out methodological scientific and vocational plans in order to introduce the new educational system in the country. It has also held seminars in the field of social and natural sciences.

It was following the same aim that the Institute for Completing Teachers' Specialisation was set up in 1981 in the framework of the Education Ministry. Since its foundation till now, around 29,000 primary and secondary school teachers have attended the methodic and preliminary seminars convened by the institute.

Great changes have also taken place in the sphere of supplying text books for the school students. The text books are now provided in the languages of five nationalities, namely, Dari, Pashto, Uzbek, Turkman and Baluchi. The contents of the text books have also been changed according to the requirements of time and the scientific principles.

The educational plans and curricula are set out in conformity with the norms of ten curriculum in the DRA which have specified the tasks of teachers, principals and students in implementing the education system.

CSO: 4600/500

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHAN ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION ISSUES STATEMENT

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 26 May 85 p 5

[Text] The following is the full text of the statement issued by Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani in Islamabad, the head of Jamiat Islami Afghanistan on the so-called incident in which Soviet captives were claimed to have been killed in a refugee camp in Pakistan.

Professor Rabbani said: The Soviet-Karmal mass media have initiated a vilification campaign against the Afghan organizations contending with the Soviet Karmal troops, wherein the farce of the alleged killing of Soviet and Karmal troops is invented and widely publicised. The drop scene of this drama is the press statement by the Soviet ambassador in Pakistan which appeared in newspapers.

The objective behind the campaign is to divert world attention from the mass killing of the defenseless Afghan masses in Laghman, Kunduz, Wardak, Logar and Qandahar provinces. In Qarghai, a small rural township of Laghman Province, alone over 1000 persons were martyred in a day. The Soviets have been burning houses and wheat crops and stores. The atrocities have reached a point where the women and innocent children are being thrown into the blazing fires.

They are, however, com-

mitting blunders and their contradictions in inventing false information against the Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan are fully exposed. In the first instance, Radio Kabul broadcast the news that a clash had taken place between two groups of Mujahideen. Later another version appeared about a clash between 110 imaginary Soviet prisoners and Mujahideen. In the third version, 12 Karmal prisoners were also included with 12 Soviets. It is a sad fact that the Soviet-Karmal media reported that incident allegedly took place in Badaber Base near Peshawar. Later it was reported that the incident took place in Dara Adam Khel in Pakistan's federally administrated tribal area.

In the meantime, the Soviet military attache said the Soviets were not participating in the war in Afghanistan. If it is correct, then what is the justification for the mention of Soviet prisoners? On the other hand, the Soviet ambassador stated that they would not lodge any protest anywhere on the 'incident'. Later he protested against the 'incident' this is all a calculated dirty game and is being played with obstinacy to divert world attention from

the new wave of atrocities and mass killing by Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

As a matter of fact, we respect the policy of the Pakistani government and do not bring any Soviet or Karmal prisoners here. Everybody knows that we never and we need not store arms and ammunition in the refugee camps. Therefore, there was not any possibility of occurrence of such imaginary incidents.

I invite the Soviet ambassador to come to visit our liberated areas in Afghanistan not alone, but accompanied by foreign correspondents and with television cameras. We shall show them dozens of Soviet prisoners who did not want to return to the same hell from where they had escaped. The prisoners are in the care of the Mujahideen and they can be permitted to return if they want.

I make it very clear that he and his masters, with all the terror and might at their command, will not be able to frustrate the courage of Afghans and break their spirit. They will have to leave our homeland — the homeland of the poor, toiling Muslim Afghan masses.

— Agency Afghan Press

AFGHANISTAN

VAST CONSTRUCTION WORK UNDER WAY

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 9 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--The Afghan Construction Unit of the Ministry of Public Works of the DRA, undertook the construction of 29 transportation, educational, industrial and residential projects in 1363 HS (ended on March 20, 1985). Out of these, the construction work of 7 projects have so far been completed and commissioned. There is an increase of 10 per cent in constructional works of the Unit as compared to the preceding year.

Stating this, a spokesman of the Unit said, "The Unit plans to construct 30 projects costing 1,200 million Afghanis in accordance with the developmental, social and economic plans of the state in the year 1364 HS (began on March 21, 1985). This shows an increase of 23 per cent as compared with the last year.

The Unit has also performed for five times voluntary works and has earned a considerable amount of money for the state.

The Unit also runs a literacy courses in which 580 persons are learning literacy.

"In order to raise work productivity in the Unit, a considerable number of workers have been assigned and encouraged to work on accord system.

"Likewise, work competitions have been launched in 13 projects among 72 work brigades, each brigade consisting of 10 persons for increasing the level of productino in the Unit".

The spokesman added, "One of the projects presently under construction, is the complex of geological exploration of mines of the Ministry of Mines and Industries which is unique in its kind from the view point of construction and technical specifications.

The Unit also got second position in 1363 (last Afghan year) as a result of the untiring efforts of the workers of the Unit by implementing its plan by 141 per cent in the all-Afghanistan work emulation launched among constructional institutions of the country.

AFGHANISTAN

INNOVATIONS IN BANKING SYSTEM DISCUSSED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 85 p 4

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--The activists of the banking system of the DRA met in session here Thursday to discuss the realisation of the resolutions of the 11th plenum of the PDPA CC.

Mehrabuddin Paktiawal, General President of the Da Afghanistan Bank (central bank) presented to the session a report on the activities of the banks in the DRA.

The report reads in a part that based on the decisions of the concerned authorities in 1982, some changes were introduced the management of banking system. It was done with a view to coordinate the banking activities with the prevailing demands and requirements so that the banks as a backbone of the economy of the country could properly handle their routine tasks in accordance with the economic policies of the country. In pursuance of this aim, preliminary steps were taken for radical change in banking system. As a result many regulations in various banking spheres were enforced.

The report adds that planning in the certain sections of the banking performances is the consequence of the efforts and measures put into practice in the course of recent two years. Its impact is witnessed on scientific foundations in managing the activities of banking system. The Da Afghanistan Bank was able during the last year to formulate plans on banking system for the current year which include proper and economic use of all banking resources.

The Secretary of the primary party organisation of the central bank Presidents of Pashtany Tejarati, export promotion, industrial banks, Vice-President of the Mortgage and Construction Bank and Secretary of the primary party organisation of Agricultural Development Bank deliberated on the banking activities. They also pledged to spare no effort for realisation of the ideals of the party and state.

Adina Sangeen, Head of the Economic Department of the PDPA CC evaluating the work of the session explained the banking system and special role of the regulations issued in this respect after the April Revolution and its new and evolutionary phase, in the interests of the working people. He wished further successes for the employees of the banking system.

AFGHANISTAN

GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF LIGHT, FOODSTUFF INDUSTRIES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] The DRA Government has taken valuable steps for the development of the economy of the country and for changing Afghanistan into an industrial country.

Stating this Mohammad Aziz Minister of Foodstuffs and Light Industries of the DRA, told a KNT correspondent:

"The past regimes were taking every step for ensuring their class interests and for their own enrichment. They paid no attention to the growth of industry in the country trying only to provide good markets for the goods from imperialist countries. Hence only a handful of businessmen benefited from it.

National bourgeoisie was not encouraged to make investments in the industrial sphere. A few national traders who had invested in industrial sphere got broke.

As an example, Chinawear, match manufacturing and bicycle manufacturing factories can be mentioned.

The Minister added: "The industries had been developed to a certain extent before the Revolution, but this could not meet the increasing requirements and demands of the people. After the Revolution the PDPA and the DRA state gave priority to the establishments of the industries producing the most needed goods. These include the new bakery in the Silo of Kabul, expansion of the Silos of Mazar-e-Sharif and Pulikhumri, measures for expanding the canning industry in Kandahar, survey for the expansion of the Afghan CLEMD and undertaking the completion of the new sugar factory in Baghlan. Likewise, measures are being taken in order to establish new cotton industries in Herat and Kandahar".

Saying the above he stressed on the importance of the handicrafts and small industries in the country and added that due to the long standing traditions in the textiles and the constant attention and endeavours of the state the textile industries has had comparatively more development.

It is viewed that the production volume of the said industries should not only be elevated to a level of self-sufficiency but it should also attain the level where we can export the products abroad.

Mohammad Aziz further said "From the economic point of view, the Jin and Press Factories of Spin Zar Bost Enterprise, and Herat Cotton Factory are of great importance. The needs of these factories in raw materials necessitate the ever further growth of cotton. In addition, every year a considerable amount of foreign currency is acquired as a result of the export of a part of the cotton abroad.

In order to elevate the production level of the light industries and food stuff to the level of the peoples requirements, the PDPA and the revolutionary state of the DRA have resolved to prepare the existing sections for ever more production and on the other hand to build new factories for the said purpose".

The Minister further added "the workers of the light industries being previously deprived of the basic rights and facilities of life, are now provided with all the possibilities of work and life, and it is time for the creative role of the workers to be realized. Besides the existing facilities provided to the workers, including the possibility of training them abroad, possibility of choice of occupation, presentation of medals and other awards, establishing of literacy courses, and kindergartens, in residential areas, it was decided that accord system be introduced in factories so to appreciate the hard work and activity of the workers. Some of the workers in the textile mills are encouraged by granting cash and kind awards.

CSO: 4600/493

AFGHANISTAN

DRIED FRUIT EXPORT SECOND ONLY TO NATURAL GAS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 2 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] The Afghan Mewai Samon Sharkat (Afghan Fruit Exporting Company) has purchased 8,400 tons of raisins and 3,000 tons of different kinds of nuts including walnuts, almonds, pistachio and others during the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 85). These dry fruits after processing are exported abroad. According to a source of the Company, it is estimated that approximately an amount of 14 million US dollars would be received as revenue from the exports of the above goods, for the realization of which around 1,080 million Afghanis has been appropriated as the floating capital.

The Company is processing, washing and packing all kinds of dry fruits, following the international standards. Prior to the establishment of the company, the said goods used to be exported with very low quality and the annual quantity of the goods was 30 to 36 thousand tons. But after the establishment of the Company not only the quantity has been drastically increased but the quality of the goods has been considerably improved. The Afghan goods with better quality is now having fine markets in various parts of the world. Moreover, the annual production has reached to 50-60 thousand tons per annum.

Having found new markets abroad, the Company rose the prices for raisins in the internal markets, so the farmers were encouraged to raise the production level of the raisins as well. This has also attracted a number of private capitals in the field, too, and thus, the Company in order to meet the expanding demands had purchased a new machine for cleaning raisins that was installed. Meanwhile, other similar plants have appeared in the country. Today, the number of raisins processing plants is reaching 33 and the export of the product is nearing 90,000 tons a year.

Being second to natural gas, export of dried fruits, including raisins, fetches hard currency for the country's economy. Prior to the victory of the April Revolution, Samoon Company though having vast possibilities for expansion of the foreign markets and for procuring required machinery but due to inadequacy of capital and insufficiency of qualified personnel and managers the Company could not fulfil its developmental plans.

Only after the April Revolution, the Company was able to bring about considerable improvements in its processing as well as its trade of raisins due to the attention paid by the party and the revolutionary government.

After the Revolution, the capital of the Company was raised from 27 million Afghanis to 200 million Afghanis which is a break-through in the history of the Company. Attracting credits from the banks considered vital for promotion of the Company. Making use of the facilities provided by the government, the Company is able to export yearly 6-7 thousand tons of raisins, after purchasing it from the farmers of the country and its subsequent processing in its plant. In addition to purchase of raisins, the Company also buys processes and exports nuts and other items too. Thus, the circulatory capital of the company is amounting to 750 to 1,000 thousand Afghanis a year. The Company fetches foreign currency amounting to 6-7 million dollars per year. Though the financial problems of the Company were somehow solved through raising its capital and facilities provided by the government through granting of bank credits, but still two main obstacles remain in the way of its progress. First of all, the machines in the plant were out-of-date and worn out, causing reduction in production as well as in its quality, and, secondly, construction of storehouses became urgent for storing additional purchases made. The company decided to solve these two problems through purchasing one whole new factory with sufficient capacity to meet the requirements of the Company, and late in 1363 it was commissioned. In the meantime, storehouses were built at a capacity of more than 4,000 tons of raisins which will be soon opened.

For better organising the production affairs and for training qualified personnel and cadres and their participation in boosting production and bettering quality, necessary measures have been taken. Now the Company has 300 workers in its pay-rolls while in the pre-revolutionary years only 60 to 70 workers worked there. The workers are now permanently working here and their rights are preserved, naturally they become interested in their work and this automatically cause further raise of the level of production.

Samoon Company beside processing raisins and other dried fruits has taken into consideration building and commissioning of store-houses and other necessary constructions. The Company has installed this year a small packing machine. The machine has the capacity for packing 120 packages of raisins per minute. The packed goods are better sold in the markets. Besides other units operating in the company, a dehydration unit at a capacity of drying over 24 tons of fruits is also functioning. Studies are being made by the Company for its further improvement and expansion.

CSO: 4600/493

AFGHANISTAN

PROJECTS TO INCREASE AIRPORT CAPACITY

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 85 p 2

[Text] KABUL (BIA)--With the completion of 37 constructional projects in Kabul International Airport, fundamental changes will take place in aviation, techniques and constructions.

The said projects, expenditures on which cover around 1,600 million Afghanis, will be completed and put into operation by 1365 HS (coming Afghan year).

Till the end of 1364 HS over 800 million Afghanis will be spent on 22 construction projects of the airport. A sum of 200 million Afghanis was allocated only in the current year for this purpose.

The construction of these projects, started 1361 HS, has progressed at different percentage ranging from 20 to 100 percent by now.

With the completion of the said projects, the transport capacity of Kabul Airport will be raised from 150 to 400 passengers per 24 hours.

The Head of Kabul International Airport said: "With the expansion of the runway of Kabul airport, big aeroplanes can land on the airfield of the airport".

The head added: "Kabul International Airport was built 31 years ago with the technical and economic assistance of friendly country of the Soviet Union. Since that time, Kabul Airport has been rendering valuable services in the field of air transport.

"Kabul Airport had no possibility to make an utmost use of national and international flights, therefore, in order to develop the aviation for providing facilities for the passengers and air transport at the national and international level, the state of the DRA has decided to introduce numerous changes in the systems and different parts of the airport. It is due to this decision that the plan of the developmental projects of Kabul Airport, which will be completed and commissioned in five years time, was undertaken.

"The construction work of extended projects of Kabul Airport includes the terminal of the airport, hangars, workshops and storehouses for export and

import items, security posts, the extended system of power supply, central heating, 100-line telephone switchboard, reserve, of fuel, air communication network, expansion of a part of old terminal concrete pavement of runway and adjoining lines, a new lighting system of the airport and its runway, placing of underground pipes, the reserve of pumping station and hygienic water, parking place of aeroplanes, etc. The work of the projects is being undertaken by the Afghan and Helmand Construction Units as well as the Department of Road and Airport Construction of the Ministry of Public Works.

"The construction of a number of projects of the Airport has been completed and made ready for utilization ahead the schedule.

"In 1363 HS (ended on March 20, 1985), around 127,000 passengers as well as over 12,000 tons of commodities were transported to and from abroad by the planes of Artana, Aeroflot and Indian Air Lines. Likewise, around 84,000 passengers and 532 tons of commodities were transported by the aeroplanes of Bakhtar Afghan Alo Tana during the same period".

Concluding his interview the Head of the Airport said: "With the completion of the developmental projects of Kabul Airport big military, transport and passenger planes can take fuel from Kabul Airport in case of need which may arise while overflying the air space of Afghanistan".

CSO: 4600/494

AFGHANISTAN

LAND REFORMS IMPLEMENTED IN KABUL PROVINCE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--After the national democratic April Revolution in Afghanistan, 1,732 landless and petty land holders have received land in Kabul Province.

Mehrabuddin Nikmal, President of the Department of Agriculture and Land Reforms of Kabul Province, has reported that Kabul Province has a total of over 1,807 million hectares. Out of these, around 79,000 hectares are irrigated lands, over 280,000 hectares are unirrigated lands, 19,500 hectares are orchards and vine-yards and the remaining are pastures, forests, arid lands and residential areas.

The President added: "Before the April Revolution, an area of over 18,415 hectares of irrigated land belonged to 875 feudals. It means that the feudals which constituted only one per cent of the number of peasants, owned 20 per cent of cultivable land, while 99 per cent of peasantry-landless and petty land holder--owned only 80 per cent of agricultural lands. The national democratic April Revolution, in order to put an end to this injustice for ever, clarified the lands of feudals. Thus, our landless and petty land holders became the owners of land for the first time in the history of our country. Now they lead a decent life and work and struggle for better future.

"With the implementation of democratic land and water reforms in Kabul Province, an area of 6,804 jeribs of land (5 jeribs equal 1 hectare) have been put at the disposal of landless and petty land holders free of charge by our revolutionary state. As many as 5,508 official land ownership documents have been distributed to the deserving peasants in Bagrami, Qara Bagh, Mir Bacha Kot, Paghman, Sorobi, Deh Sabz, Char Asiab districts and Kalakan sub-district of Kabul Province.

"Besides the implementation of the democratic land and water reforms in Kabul Province, peasants' councils have been set up for solving the problems of peasants and their direct participation in the implementation of the democratic land reforms. The cooperative movement is expanding in the country. And, in the meantime, new agricultural system is being implemented on a greater scale.

"Seventy village peasants' councils have so far been established in localities where the work of operational groups of democratic land reforms is continuing and ten peasants' committees for water distribution were formed in Kabul as well. At present, land reform is being implemented in 120 Kabul villages out of the total of 694.

In 50 villages the work of land reforms has progressed at different levels ranging from 90 to 98 per cent.

"In order to help peasants and attract them to the implementation of democratic land reforms in Kabut, financial and technical committees included in the operational groups of land reforms put a quantity of 6,351 tons of chemical fertilizers, 1,174 tons of improved seeds and pesticides and insecticides worth of 5.9 million Afghanis at the disposal of peasants of Kabul Province during the last Afghan year (ended on March 20, 1985)".

The President further added: "Forty-eight agricultural cooperatives with the capital of over 2.1 million Afghanis have been established in Kabul so far. These cooperatives have 3,266 members".

CSO: 4600/497

19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES ASSIST FARMERS IN RURAL AREAS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 21 May 85 p 4

[Text] The Cooperative Promotion Department has granted financial aid and credits worth of 122 million Afghanis for the peasants of the country in 1363 (1984-85) for purchasing chemical fertilisers, improved seeds, agricultural pesticides, machinery and others. In the course of the preceding year 61 thousand tons of surplus products of the cooperative members were sold through the assistance of the Cooperatives Promotion Department which also helped the livestock breeders sell more than 35 thousand karakul pelts in the local and foreign markets. The Department, on the basis of the directives and resolutions of the PDPA CC Politburo and DRA Council of Ministers and generalizing the experience gained in the recent years, especially after the new phase of the revolution, focused most of its attention on improving the cooperatives qualitatively.

The Cooperative Promotion Department has adopted definite measures to facilitate implementing the autumn sowing campaign for the member-peasants. The cooperatives in their present new form appeared in 1978, but it was only after the new phase of the Revolution that the cooperatives took the appropriate position in the country.

In 1980 for the first time in the history of the country, the congress of peasants' cooperatives was convened in Kabul, and it was in the congress that the first uniting force of the Peasants that is the Central Council of Cooperatives in the framework of the National Fatherland Front, came into being.

The Revolutionary Council of the DRA in 1982 approved the Law of Cooperatives on the basis of which the peasants and other working masses enjoyed political support and backing of the party and the popular power. The cooperatives and their unions later united in the Union of the Peasants' Cooperatives of the DRA.

The Politburo of the PDPA CC and the Council of Ministers of the DRA adopted a joint resolution on the basis of which the leadership and organisation of the cooperative movement in the DRA was entrusted to the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry. Accordingly, the Ministry adopted and implemented practical measures for promoting the cooperative movement.

Right now, the activities of the cooperatives of agricultural services aimed at upgrading the level of awareness of peasants and providing them with fresh knowledge at the level of administrative divisions for boosting agricultural product, in the country, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

The cooperative organisations collaborate with the responsible institutions for promoting agricultural activities. They have close links with the Agricultural Development Bank, the Fertilizer Company, Seed Company, Gin and Press Mills and other service institutions.

In addition to 325 agricultural cooperatives, with 25 thousand members and 25 million Afghanis capital, there are other cooperatives as well which have indirect role in presenting agricultural services. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan under the wise leadership of the PDPA attaches great value to the unification of the peasants and for their mutual cooperation in the economic sphere.

For materialisation of agricultural transformations in the interests of vast masses of the country the state takes necessary measures. Credits are provided for the peasants. The Government assists the peasants in obtaining agricultural machinery, improved seeds, fertilisers and in selling their surplus products. The Consumer Goods Cooperatives supply the farmers with necessary commodities at quite reasonable prices.

The peasants themselves are not able to find suitable markets for their products unless they jointly take measures and supply their goods to a cooperative.

With the establishment of cooperatives in the rural areas the hands of middlemen are cut short and the fruit of the labour of the working peasants comes to belong to them.

With the process of implementing the land reforms in the country, the land is being divided into small pieces and the new owners of the land due to the weakness of their economic base can not afford buying needed implements, themselves; for instance, a tractor cost beyond the financial power of a peasant. A tractor owned by cooperative, however, can serve several peasants in a very short time.

The last but not the least, the cooperatives create favourable and secure atmosphere for the peasants to stimulate their agricultural activities and bring overall changes in their economic status.

CSO: 4600/497

AFGHANISTAN

COAL MINE BEING REHABILITATED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 26 May 85 p 1

[Text] The counter-revolution had destroyed the establishments, equipment and vehicles of Sabzak Coal Mine costing 4.4 million dollars in the middle of 1361 (1982). As a result of a mopping up operation carried out by the security forces of the DRA the counter-revolution was eradicated from and around the mine. Currently, the revolutionary state takes measures to rehabilitate the mine.

It is envisaged that the construction and rehabilitation work of the mine will be completed by the experts of Czechoslovakia by the middle of the current Afghan year. The mine will begin production and will have a capacity of 125 thousand tons of coal.

The production of the mine is generally consumed by the people of western part of the country.

An amount of 20 million Afghanis has been earmarked from the state development budget for construction of establishments and other necessary equipment of the mine.

Likewise, an amount of 17.2 million dollars from the credit of CSSR and 915 million Afghanis from the state development budget will be spent on the rehabilitation of the mine.

Currently, 20 thousand tons of coal extracted during previous years are stored in the mine. About two thousand tons of coal were transported to Herat Textile Mills in the second half of 1363 HS.

It is planned to transport 8.5 tons of coal to Herat Province for meeting the needs of Herat citizens during the current Afghan year.

It is also envisaged to construct five residential blocks equipped with modern means for workers of the mine up to the year 1368 HS.

CSO: 4600/497

AFGHANISTAN

COUNCIL ISSUES DECREE ON PARDON, MITIGATION OF PRISON TERMS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] In line with the deep respect of the party and the state to decisions of the Jirgahs (assemblies), as one of the most favourite and prideful customs and traditions of our people and in accordance with the directives of Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, issued in the inaugural session of the historical Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) of the Afghan people concerning the pardon of the remaining term of imprisonment and mitigation of punishment of a number of prisoners who have not committed grave counterrevolutionary crimes, a commission was assigned by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA to present a proposal on the said subject. And in accordance with the proposals of the assigned commission, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA issued the following Decree on the Pardon and Mitigation of the term of imprisonment of prisoners in order to honour the historical Loya Jirgah of the Afghan people:

Decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

No. 39

Date: 13.3.1364 (3.6.1985)

On the Pardon and Mitigation of Imprisonment Terms of Prisoners in Honour of the Historical Loya Jirgah of Saur 3-5, 1364 (April 23-25, 1985).

In honour of the historical Loya Jirgah of Saur 3-5, 1364, based on the humanitarian principles and according to Item No. 6, Article No. 43 of the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan endorses:

Article No 1: Following prisoners be freed before the termination of imprisonment term: 1. All those who are at immature age regardless the term of their imprisonment;

2. Women who have been sentenced up to five years imprisonment, regardless the passage of their term;

3. Men who are at the age of 60 or older than that and have been sentenced upto five-year imprisonment;
4. Men who are termed upto one-year imprisonment.
5. Men who were sentenced upto five-year imprisonment and have passed half of the term of their imprisonment;

Article No 2: Following mitigations be given to the remaining term of imprisonment of prisoners:

1. Half of the remaining term of imprisonment of women, who have been sentenced to more than five years of imprisonment;
2. The half of the remaining term of imprisonment of men, who were sentenced upto five-year imprisonment and have not yet passed the half of the term of their imprisonment;
3. One third of the remaining term of imprisonment of men, who were sentenced to more than five years of imprisonment.

Article No 3: In the following cases the pardon and mitigation of punishment are not applied to the prisoners registered in the first and second articles of this Decree:

1. In case they have committed crimes registered in Article No. 8 of the Law on Punishment of Crimes Against the Combat Preparations of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan or committed crimes registered in articles, Nos 175, 176, 178, 179, 183, 192, 194, 213, 217, 221 (Item No. 2) 360, 363, 365, 395, 396, 515 of the Penal Code:
2. In case, they had been released according to the Decrees on amnesty and mitigation of punishments, and committed a crime again and presently serve in a jail the specific term of imprisonment issued by a court;
3. In case, pardon and mitigation were given earlier in the term of their imprisonment according to decree;
4. In case, they have committed another crime while serving the term of imprisonment in a jail and have been sentenced to a punishment by a court.

Article No. 4: This decree would be enforced since the date of its endorsement and be published in the Official Gazette.

Babrak Karmal,

President of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

CSO: 4600/492

AFGHANISTAN

BLOOD PROVIDED TO NEEDY

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 29 May 85 p 2

[Text] Over 2,000,000 cc blood was given to the needy persons free of charge during the last Afghan year (ended on March 20, 1985) by the Central Blood Bank and its branches in provinces.

Stating this, Dr. Mohammad Ismael Yusefi, Deputy President of the Central Blood Bank, told a KNT reporter, "The Central Blood Bank was founded in 1343 HS (1964) in the framework of the Ministry of Public Health with an initial capital of 300,000 Afghanis. Later, the Bank was able to open its branches in a number of provinces of the country.

In reply to another question he said, "Before the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the DRA dated October 30, 1982, blood was purchased from donors and sold to needy persons at a fixed price except some special cases. But after the issuance of the Decree blood is purchased from donors, under strict medical supervision, according to scientific demands and is given to the needy persons on a regulated basis free of charge. What is more, we provide patients with as much blood as the doctor incharge finds necessary.

Elucidating on the measures taken after the April Revolution for the expansion of the Bank in order to render more assistance to the people, Dr. Yusefi said: "Currently, the Central Bank and its branches in provinces are at the service of the needy persons around the clock. The bank has opened its branches in 12 hospitals of the capital and provinces. It is envisaged to open new branches in the near future.

The research work of the Bank is also being considerably expanded and now students of the Nursing School and Faculty of Pharmacy are being trained in this institution.

The total storage capacity of the Bank in Kabul is around 1,300,000 cc of blood. But due to certain scientific reasons blood cannot be preserved for more than 21 days. We hope that with the completion of the new building for the Blood Bank which will be equipped with modern facilities that will prolong the preservation of blood till 10-15 years. Similarly, the Bank plans to arrange separate preservation of solid blood of some rare blood group for even longer period after the completion of the project.

In conclusion Dr. Yusefi said, "With the completion of the construction of the new building of the Central Blood Bank, 13 new labs will be established which will to a considerable extent provide the scientific assistance in provision, storing and distribution of blood to the needy persons. Hence the Bank will be able to perform significant services to people.

CSO: 4600/492

AFGHANISTAN

PREVENTIVE, CURATIVE MEASURES PROVIDED BY CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jun 85 p 3

[Text] About 164,894 children have been treated and 18,443 children have been admitted and discharged after recovery in the Children Health Institute during the last 14 months.

Stating this, Dr. Azim Bakhtiar, President of the Institute, told a KNT correspondent: "Over 54,500 children were vaccinated against different diseases such as BCG, DPT, Polio, TT, etc.

He added "The hospital with 60 doctors, 59 nurses and 13 technicians and all necessary wards and labs is always at the service of people. Likewise, 4 Indian specialists are also working in the hospital.

The institute, besides performing curative and preventive duties, is also taking valuable part in training doctors. Annually 8 to 10 doctors are being trained here.

Similarly, short-term courses are organized for training nurses.

Elucidating on the aid of India to the hospital, Dr Bakhtiar said, "Indian Government has always rendered valuable assistance to the hospital, for example, the commissioning of the central heating units, spare parts, medicines and other necessary instruments were given to the hospital by the Indian side.

Speaking about the plans for the further expansion of the hospital, he said, "It is envisaged that 50 beds will be added to the old polyclinic. In addition, more doctors will be trained during this year at different levels by Afghan and Indian experts. Similarly, a new building will be built on the compound of the hospital for visits of patients on the basis of the agreements signed between the DAR and the Republic of India."

CSO: 4600/492

AFGHANISTAN

NEW TEXTILE MILLS ESTABLISHED IN HERAT

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 18 May 85 p 4

[Text] HERAT, (BIA)--A new Textile Mills in Herat Province was commissioned here yesterday by General Mohammad Rafie, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and Deputy-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

The opening ceremony was attended among others by General Abdul Qadir Miakhel, Chief of North-Eastern Zone, Abdul Ghafar Azad, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee of Herat Province, party activists and a large number of the working people of the province.

Similarly, letters of appreciation and gifts prepared by the Provincial Party Committee of the province and Banai Construction Unit were given away by the Chief of North Eastern Zone to a number of workers who had shown distinction in their respective works.

The project is situated 12 km south of the province. Its construction work began in 1976 (1975) and its installation work commenced in 1362 (1983).

The construction work of its residential blocks consisting of 18 blocks began in 1357 (1978) in the north of Enjil district.

The project costing over 95 million Afghanis is built on an area of 5 hectares.

The project has been financed from the state development budget and the aid of Iraq.

Currently about 600 employees and workers are working at the mills.

According to the envisaged plan the capacity of the mills is estimated at one million metre of cloth per year.

According to a spokesman of the mill about 370 workers have been enrolled in the ranks of the Trade Union and consumer goods cooperative of the mill. About 140 workers have been enrolled in the literacy courses.

The party and the DYOA Primary Organisations and self-defence group have also been set up in the mill.

CSO: 4600/491

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNICATION SEMINAR OPENS IN KABUL

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 May 85 p 2

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--A seminar of the leading personnel of Ministry of Communication from all over the country opened here yesterday. The seminar was attended by Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and Minister of Communications Niaz Mohammad Momand, Secretary of the PDPA CC, Adina Sangeen, head of the Economic Department of the CC, deputy ministers, departmental heads and employees of the ministry as well as provincial directors of communications.

The main report of the seminar was read out by Aslam Watanjar. The report noted the performances of the Communication Ministry in the context of the realisation of the resolutions of the 11th plenum of the PDPA CC, implementation of the socio-economic plan for the last year as well as the implementation of the current year's plan.

The report reads in a part that the definite measures have been taken to implement the Socio-Economic Development Plan of 1363 HS which included 13 carry over and new communication projects at a cost of Afs 185 million from the state development budget, six million dollars from the credit of the Soviet Union and 1.3 million Afghanis from the credit of the Central Bank. Specific plans were designed in this respect and put into practice.

During the recent years, 160 wireless stations were installed in various parts of the country, while the number of wireless stations prior to revolution in the country reached only 13.

In order to maintain international communications through satellite for the exchange of TV programs and enhancing the links of Afghanistan with the foreign countries, Shamshad satellite ground station was installed and is being utilised. The radio broadcasting units prior to revolution reached to eight all over the country but now 20 radio units are functioning in the capital and provinces of the country. This figure shows an increase of 150 per cent as compared to the pre-revolutionary years.

The TV programs which were confined only to Kabul city are now extended to seven provinces of the country. Effective measures have also been taken as regards the extension of automatic telephone lines. The number of automatic telephone lines have been raised from 17700 to 22500 which shows a 271 per cent increase.

CSO: 4600/491

19 July 1985

AFGHANISTAN

CONFERENCE ESTIMATES ROLE OF STATE INFORMATION SERVICE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 85 p 2

[Text] KABUL, (BIA)--A scientific and practical conference of the leading organs of the State Information Services (SIS) was held here recently.

The conference was devoted to the PDPA, the militant party, and the role of the State Information Services in the defence of the gains of the April Revolution.

The conference was attended among others by Najibullah, member of the Politburo of the PDPA and General President of the State Information Services, deputies of the (SIS), incharges of the organs, a number of employees of the (SIS) and General Noor-ul-Haq Ulomi Head of the Justice and Defence Department of the PDPA CC.

The main report of the conference was delivered by Najibullah and he emphasized the leading role of the party over the organs of the SIS.

It is stated in the main report, "In the present complicated situation in the country, our tasks are difficult and full of responsibility. But since our objective is just, the future is ours. The enemy cannot be victorious over people struggling for freedom and advancement.

The Badaber epic has demonstrated that the enemy cannot suppress people who have risen up devotedly against devilish forces. The Badaber saga is, on the one hand, an indication of devotion, steadfastness and non-submission, and on the other, it is a manifestation of the most sincere, unique and unshakable friendship between two nations, parties and states".

It is further mentioned in the main report, "our historic traditional national Loya Jirgah was held in 1364 HS (1985) based on the will of the Afghan people. It was convened in a democratic and free atmosphere and unanimously adopted vital for destiny decisions. The Loya Jirgah fully endorsed the domestic and foreign policy of the PDPA, the state of the DRA, the traditional historic Afghan-Soviet friendship, the need for the presence of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union in our country till the complete secession of interferences by imperialism, sealing and defence of the borders of the DRA, Defence of independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the

country against the undeclared war of imperialism and the full suppression of the counter-revolution are considered necessary for the realization of the objectives of the national democratic April Revolution.

It is the undelayable task of the employees of the State Information Services, as devoted soldiers of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, to put into practice the decisions of the historic Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan. Hence, they are able to keep alive and honoured the favourite customs of their forefathers.

According to another despatch, deputies and some incharges of the central organs of the SIS also delivered speeches in the conference.

CSO: 4600/496

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT--KABUL, (BIA)--A delegation of the DRA headed by Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the DRA, who had gone to the Soviet Union for an official friendly visit, returned home yesterday. Talking to the newsmen upon his arrival, A. G. Lakanwal said, "As a result of the talks between the two countries, the Soviet side agreed to help the DRA in setting up two Agricultural mechanised stations and cooperate with the DRA in putting into practice the program of extension of improved seeds. Currently, there are five agricultural mechanized stations which have been built with the help of the Soviet Union. "The Afghan delegation also visited collective and state farms in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan during their stay at the Soviet Union". [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Jun 85 p 2]

LAND OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS--TAKHAR, (BIA)--Some 835 landless peasants and petty land holders of Takhar Province received land ownership documents, during the year 1363 HS (ended March 20, 1985). Moreover, around 54 thousand hectares of land were categorised and 2,016 land ownership documents were renewed in the center and other areas of the province, during the same period. Likewise, during the spring and fall campaigns of the current year, chemical fertiliser, worth of 30 million Afghanis 400 thousand Afghanis worth pesticides and insecticides 300 thousand Afghanis worth wheat seeds and agricultural machines were rendered by the Agricultural Development Bank to the deserving peasants on loan basis. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Jun 85 p 2]

CSO: 4600/494

BANGLADESH

INDIAN, SRI LANKA LEADERS VISIT TO SEE STORM DAMAGE

Gandhi, Jayewardene at Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi who was on a four-hour visit to Bangladesh along with Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene on Sunday described the present state of Indo-Bangladesh relations as "very good" and expressed optimism about resolving all the outstanding problems including the Ganges water issue between the two countries.

President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi flew together from the Indian capital to Dhaka and immediately boarded a helicopter with President Ershad to visit Urur Char and see for themselves the extent of devastation caused by cyclone and tidal bore.

Addressing a crowded Press conference at the VIP lounge at Zia International Airport on their return from Urur Char, the Sri Lankan and the Indian leaders said that there were lot to do to rehabilitate the affected people.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said that considering the extent of devastation his country could do little in helping Bangladeshis in the rehabilitation programme. But, he added, "We are with Bangladesh and the Bangladeshis at the time of their sufferings and the time is now."

Sri Lankan President shared the views of the Indian Prime Minister when asked to give his impression about the devastation caused by the cyclone.

Reverting back to Indo-Bangladesh relations, Mr Gandhi agreed that there were outstanding problems between the two countries which "we are trying to tackle." He asserted "I am very optimistic that we will be able to tackle the problems."

In reply to a question whether his visit would help in finding a solution to the Ganges water issue on which the Indo-Bangladesh ministerial meeting is now proceeding in Dhaka, the Indian Prime Minister said that he had not come here to discuss the Ganges water problem. He requested newsmen to direct this question to the Ministers engaged in the present talks.

19 July 1985

The Indian Prime Minister was hopeful that his short visit would "certainly improve the relations and understanding and will help solve all the outstanding problems."

Narrating his impression about the short visit to Bangladesh, the Indian Prime Minister said "the visit was very, very short but we are very much moved by the warm feeling of the people in the affected areas in spite of their sufferings."

Mr Gandhi visualised stronger and closer relationship and expanded cooperation between the two countries.

Asked whether there was any possibility of a formal meeting between him and President Ershad before the SARC summit in December in Dhaka, Mr Gandhi said "there is no such plan at the moment."

In reply to a question on the positive side of the regional cooperation under the umbrella of South Asian Regional cooperation (SARC) the Indian Prime Minister said "I am sure that the spirit will not only continue but it will yield and there will be much more cooperation among the countries in South Asia."

Asked to comment on the SARC summit in Dhaka next December, Sri Lankan President Jayewardene said "I am looking forward to the summit anxiously."

Sri Lankan President and the Indian Prime Minister shared jokes with newsmen when a correspondent asked them to comment on the present state of Delhi-Colombo relations by posing a question, who would answer the question. Mr Jayewardene, however, came out with a reply saying 'Sri Lanka have no outstanding problems with India.' Mr Gandhi promptly added, "there is no problem between Sri Lanka and India."

Replying to a question how he will tackle the domestic problems, the Indian Premier said that his government would take all necessary measures to resolve the internal problems. Asked whether he faces any security problem Mr Gandhi quipped "Do I look being in a state of fear."

Ershad at Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Ershad welcomed the short visit of Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Bangladesh on Sunday and described it as an 'unprecedented gesture in our recent history that will embolden the relations among the three countries.'

Making this comment in his opening statement at the Press conference jointly addressed by Sri Lankan President and the Indian Premier at the Zia International Airport on their return from the cyclone affected areas in Urir Char, President Ershad observed that the gesture of the two leaders

would encourage the process of evolution of the SARC. He termed this visit as a 'significant development' in the spirit of regional cooperation.

President Ershad accompanied his two guests in a helicopter to Urir Char immediately after the two leaders flew in from New Delhi together in the special aircraft of the Indian Prime Minister.

In his statement, President Ershad said that the visit demonstrated the extraordinary gesture of solidarity and sympathy of the two leaders of Sri Lanka and India towards the people of Bangladesh. He added that the visit was a source of inspiration to the cyclone affected people in their agony and 'we are all deeply touched by this gesture.'

President Ershad hoped that in the future Bangladesh would be able to welcome the two leaders in a more happier circumstances. He said that he was looking forward to greet the two leaders again during the SARC Summit in Dhaka next December. He also wished continued well-being progress and prosperity of the people of Sri Lanka and India.

Sri Lankan President and the Indian Prime Minister arrived in Dhaka in the same flight from New Delhi to visit the cyclone affected areas in Urir Char in a rare manifestation of gesture of goodwill unfamiliar in this region.

Besides sharing the human sufferings and agony in the affected areas, this provided a unique opportunity with the leaders of the three countries of the seven-member SARC to give a fresh impetus to the ongoing efforts for meaningful bilateralism through regional cooperation under the board framework of SARC.

The ceremonial parts of the formal visit had to be discarded considering the purpose of the short trip by the two leaders.

President Ershad received his guests at the Zia International Airport and escorted them to a standing helicopter that took them to Urir Char. The two leaders also got a warm sendoff from President Ershad after they addressed a Press conference at the VIP Lounge of the airport.

President J.R. Jayewardene was in his typical Sri Lankan dress of lungi and kurta and the young handsome Indian Prime Minister was attired in all white 'chost' pyjama kurta and a cotton waist coat.

The Sri Lankan President was accompanied by the National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

Indian State Minister for External Affairs Khurshid Alam Khan and Foreign Secretary Mr Romesh Bhandari formed the big entourage of the Indian Prime Minister. A 20-member Press team from India also accompanied Mr Gandhi in his special flight.

Ershad, Gandhi Talks

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] President Lt Gen H.M. Ershad and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Sunday discussed all the bilateral issues as well as regional and international matters of interest.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury told BSS that they had the discussions on their way to Urir Char and also while returning to Dhaka.

"I have reasons to believe that the discussions were on very positive and friendly note," Mr Chowdhury said.

The Foreign Adviser expressed optimism about solution of some of the outstanding bilateral problems in the near future.

He said that President Ershad also discussed with President J.R. Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi the SARC summit and the preparations for it.

They exchanged ideas, he said, on how SARC should be developed.

The discussions, he added, were on a positive note.

Ganges Issues Discussed

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and Indian Irrigation Minister B. Shankaranand yesterday discussed the possibility of signing a new Ganges waters sharing agreement, a Foreign Office source told BSS yesterday.

They held the discussion when the Indian Minister called on the Foreign Adviser at the latter's office.

They discussed the need for a fresh agreement for sharing the river's waters.

They touched the question of augmentation of dry season Ganges flows at Farakka and stressed utilisation of the water available in the South Asia region for the purpose, the source said.

During the last dry season there had been no agreement to share the Ganges waters between the two countries.

The arrangement for sharing the Ganges waters for two dry seasons as provided in the memorandum of understanding of October 1982 expired on May 31, 1984.

The question of augmentation of the dry season Ganges flows repeatedly bogged down the talks for a permanent sharing agreement.

Meanwhile, the Indo-Bangladesh talks on common rivers under the auspices of the Joint Rivers Commission continued for the second day in Dhaka.

Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, DCMLA and Minister for Irrigation and Water Development, led the Bangladesh side while the Indian delegation was headed by Irrigation Minister B. Shankaranand.

The talks lasted for more than two hours in the morning session. In the afternoon, the officials of two sides discussed details on different issue.

Nothing was available about the progress of talks of this 28th meeting of the JRC.

Official sources said that two sides will disclose the outcome of the meeting this morning at a press conference before the Indian delegation leaves for home.

CSO: 4600/1671

BANGLADESH

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT VISITS TO INSPECT STORM AREA

Remarks to Press

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator of Pakistan General Ziaul Huq on his return from a trip to Urir Char told newsmen at Bangabhavan on Wednesday that his Government and the people of Pakistan share the sorrows of the cyclone affected people in Bangladesh.

Addressing a crowded Press conference, General Huq said that he had seen the sufferings of people in Urir Char and was [passage illegible] humanity in that island. He appreciated the fortitude with which the affected people faced the tragedy that befell them.

President Zia who is the only head of the state from a Muslim country to visit Bangladesh so far after the recent devastating cyclone, expressed his appreciation and gratitude to President Ershad for doing "everything for his people." He observed that the loss of life and property in the cyclone affected areas would have been more if necessary measures were not taken under the "personal guidance" of President Ershad.

Asked why he decided to come personally to Bangladesh cancelling the earlier declared visit of his Foreign Minister Shahabzada Yakub Khan, President Ziaul Huq said that when he learnt about the human tragedy in Bangladesh he did not want to miss the chance of being beside President Ershad with whom "I am proud of having a personal equation and friendship." He said that he was keeping himself abreast with the situation in Bangladesh and took the first opportunity to share the sorrows of the people of Bangladesh.

President Zia thanked his host President Ershad for the warm hospitality extended to him and his entourage during their 10-hour stay in Bangladesh. He termed his short visit to Bangladesh as [passage illegible] and informative."

'Bangladesh's Heroes Are Our Heroes'

Asked whether he had any programme during his stay in Dhaka to visit the National Memorial at Savar to pay respect to the martyrs of the War of Liberation, President Ziaul Huq said 'joys of Bangladesh are the joys of Pakistan, your sorrows and your heroes are our heroes and in that context I feel myself in a country for which we have the greatest regard, love and affection and if I have to pay my regards to them (martyrs) I shall not hesitate to do that.'

In reply to a question on the repatriation of non-locals who had opted for Pakistan President Zia said that Pakistan did not view the issue on a legalistic point but on humanitarian ground. He added that Pakistan had done more on this issue than what was required on legalistic point. He informed that Rabeta-e-Alam Al-Islam, a charitable organisation based in Saudi Arabia, was collecting funds for the repatriation of the non-locals. Replying to another question he said that Pakistan had no concrete programme now to repatriate anymore as she had its own limitation. But he added 'We shall not hesitate a moment to repatriate those who want to go to Pakistan after we get help from Rabeta.'

The President of Pakistan which is a member of the SARC said that the developing countries, particularly the nations in South Asia, must work together to help each other. He was confident that SARC had tremendous prospect to help boost regional cooperation in South Asia. He, however, feels that the SARC should not be used as a 'platform for bilateral issues, it should deal with multilateral problems.' Referring to the success of the ASEAN he also expressed his optimism in the success of SARC in accelerating the process of regional cooperation.

In reply to a question on the arms race in the region, President Zia said that Pakistan would do everything to defend its security and 'we have a right to do this' he asserted.

BSS adds, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq avoided answering a question whether a major conflict could take place in the region as a result of the arms race.

He told a Press conference that his country took the policy of friendship with its neighbours.

Answering a question, President Ziaul Haq dismissed the suggestion that Pakistan was engaged in arms race saying for indulging in arms race countries must be rich. But Pakistan is not a rich country.

But no country, he said, can ignore its own security. Pakistanis never hesitated, he said, to ensure its security and stand on its own feet to guard their own home.

"In the first place you must define what is an arms race," he shot back to the questioner.

Warm Welcome Accorded

An earlier message adds: Pakistan President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday on a brief visit to express solidarity and sympathy with the people of Bangladesh for the recent cyclone disaster.

He was received at the Zia International Airport by President Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, a child presented bouquets to the distinguished guest.

The Pakistan President was then introduced to the waiting dignitaries who included the two Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrators--Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, Cabinet Ministers, diplomats and high ranking civil and military officials.

The usual airport ceremony like the guard of honour and 31-gun salute were omitted in view of the present situation.

President Zia's entourage includes his Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan and three members of Pakistan National Assembly--Mr Makhdoomzada Syed Hamid Raza Jilani, Mir Ahmad Nawaz Khan Bugti and Pir Sabir Shah.

Later President Zia accompanied by his host President Ershad, drove to the VIP lounge of the airport where he was briefed by the DCMLA and Minister for Communications, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, about the situation in the cyclone and tidal surge-hit areas.

The DCMLA told President Zia that soon after the coastal areas were hit by cyclone and tidal bore, Bangladesh navy ship and air force helicopters were sent for rescue operation.

He said emergency shelters were built within 48 hours to provide shelter to the survivors of the islands.

Admiral Ahmed pointed out that the recent calamity was the first in the last 15 years.

He said that a total of 2085 bodies have been found in the affected areas while another 4,855 people were missing. Over one lakh four thousand cattle were missing. Over one lakh four thousand cattle were lost and the crop damage was estimated to be on over one lakh 22 thousand acres.

He said both the Government agencies and voluntary organisations were still carrying out relief operations in the affected areas.

The Government, he said, had so far distributed Taka 46 lakh 56 thousand 265 as G.R. cash Taka, 13 lakh as house building grant, 36 thousand 800 maunds of wheat and 25 thousand 735 maunds of rice to the survivors of cyclone and tidal bore.

19 July 1985

Following the briefing, President-Zia and President Ershad offered their Zohr prayers at the VIP lounge and then left together by a helicopter for Urir Char island in Sandwip.

Ershad Remarks

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad welcomed his guest President and Chief Martial Law Administrator General Ziaul Haq of Pakistan, saying that Dhaka and Pindi were bound by "innumerable ties of friendship." He added, "the two countries share common religion, tradition, culture and history."

In his opening statement at the Press conference addressed by President Zia at Bangabhavan, President Ershad observed that friendly cooperation between Dhaka and Pindi was developing to the mutual benefit of the peoples of both the countries. He believed that such cooperation would get a new impetus with the gradual evolution of SARC. He hoped that President Ziaul Haq's short visit to Bangladesh would embolden "our resolve to strengthen cooperation in this region."

President Ershad gave his statement in Bengali and he acknowledged with thanks President Ziaul Haq's "kind gesture: in sharing the sorrows of the cyclone-affected people in Urir Char. He particularly mentioned that President Zia was the first head of the state from a Muslim country who has come to "share our grief and express sympathy."

President Ershad said that Bangladesh would eagerly look forward to receive President Zia in December next during the SARC summit.

CSO: 4600/1673

BANGLADESH

REPORTAGE ON JUNE MEETING OF JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION

Stands, Background Given

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Abdur Rahim]

[Text] India seems to have maintained her same old stand on the issue of sharing of the waters of the Ganges and other international and common rivers with Bangladesh. That is what has been indicated by the Indian side at the opening meeting of the long overdue JRC ministerial level meeting that began in Dhaka on Sunday. The last ministerial level meeting held in Delhi in December 1984 ended inconclusively. Bangladesh has persistently been insisting on getting due share of waters of the Ganges and other international rivers flowing through the two neighbouring countries. On the other hand, India presses for a link canal through Bangladesh to take Brahmaputra waters to the Ganges to make up the upstream withdrawal of the Ganges waters by India in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The refusal of Bangladesh to concede to the Indian link canal proposal has resulted in the Indian unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters at Farakka discarding the last accord between the two countries. At the moment India has no treaty obligation to share the Ganges waters with Bangladesh. India did not respond to Bangladesh request for renewal of accord for three more years. The accord expired on May 31, 1984.

The two-day ministerial level meeting will, however, discuss the sharing and augmentation of the Ganges waters in particular, and the waters of the Teesta and six other common border rivers. The common border rivers which would come for discussion are: Muhuri, Manu, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudkumar. India argues that Bangladesh can have enough waters if it cooperated with India in the link canal proposal of India.

As we have mentioned earlier that a new dimension has been added to the water sharing issue with West Bengal government's sudden realisation that 40,000 cusecs of Ganges waters are required for flushing of the Hoogly River to keep the Calcutta port navigable. The West Bengal Government has kept the central government apprised of her claim on the Ganges waters which had hitherto been the main source of natural water flow to Bangladesh.

19 July 1985

The Indian government, it may be recalled, commissioned the Farakka barrage while running it on a trial basis thus totally ignoring the water requirements of Bangladesh. According to the first water sharing agreement in 1974, Bangladesh was assured of 44,000 cusecs of Ganges Waters in the lean season, the quantity of water for Bangladesh was reduced to 40 000 cusecs in 1977 accord. The quantity was further reduced to 34,600 cusecs in the last accord which expired on May 31, 1984.

If on the basis of the West Bengal Government's demand for 40,000 cusecs of water then there will remain only 15,000 cusecs of water for Bangladesh during the driest season. The lean period continues from January 1 to May 31.

The solution of the water sharing between the two countries depends entirely on the attitude of the Indian government, of course, if they sincerely desire so with a view to increasing better understanding with her immediate neighbour. It is hoped that the new Indian leadership would realise the human aspect of the problem and help reach a negotiated settlement on all the outstanding issues between Bangladesh and India including Berubari, Allgorpota Dahagram and other minor border disputes.

Talks Adjourn

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Indo-Bangladesh talks on sharing the Ganges water ended in Dhaka on Tuesday inconclusively as the 28th meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) at ministerial level was adjourned.

The Commission may meet in a month or so in New Delhi to pick up the thread of discussion for an agreement, sources said.

The optimism for a fresh agreement during the current meeting of JRC failed when the Indian side demanded further reduction in share of Bangladesh of lean season flow of the Ganges as guaranteed under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed by the two heads of government of two countries in 1982.

The Indian side also did not agree to Bangladesh proposal for an extension of MOU for another three years.

The ad-hoc sharing arrangement of the Ganges water under MOU expired on May 30 last year.

Both sides also differed on the question of the augmentation of the dry season flow of the Ganges.

The optimism had been expressed by Foreign Adviser Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, who also worked hard for an understanding.

The JRC also did not issue a joint statement on the outcome at the end of the meeting, a conspicuous departure from normal JRC practice.

The Farakka problem has eluded any solution during past three decades of talks and diplomacy. It made Bangladesh a lower riparian dependent on the Ganges for irrigation and other needs.

There were widely different approach to the issue by the two countries. While Bangladesh wanted waters of the Ganges basin to be diverted to the river to augment its lean season flow, India opposed the idea and introduced in its other extraneous ideas.

The two-day meeting of JRC which was scheduled to conclude on Monday continued for the third day on Tuesday.

A press conference was scheduled at 11 a.m. to inform about the outcome of the talks, but it was postponed for sometime and at about 2 p.m. a Director General in the Foreign office and a member of JRC told the newsmen that the press conference had been cancelled.

Emerging from the talks, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad, leader of Bangladesh delegation at the talks and Indian Irrigation Minister Mr B. Shankaranand, leader of the Indian delegation, told newsmen that the talks had been inconclusive and the 28th JRC meeting would resume at a mutually convenient date.

Asked if the talks had failed, Mr Shankaranand said: "we have not failed. JRC talks at the Ministerial level would resume." He said that he was satisfied with the talks. Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad said: "there are many details to be discussed. There has been some definite progress since last JRC meeting and I am hopeful."

Foreign Affairs Adviser Mr Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury for the first time joined Tuesday's unscheduled meeting of JRC. Mr Chowdhury on Monday had expressed the hope that there could be some positive developments at the 29th JRC meeting.

Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi during his brief visit to Bangladesh on Sunday told newsmen that his country was keen to settle all bilateral issues including the Ganges water issue.

There had been hectic efforts to arrive at an agreement. But sources said the Indian stand on the question of augmentation of dry season flow of the Ganges and sharing had brought to a stalemate.

India continued to press for bilateral arrangement for augmentation of the dry season flow of the Ganges while Bangladesh stuck to its original stand for regional cooperation for the augmentation.

The short-term accord of the Ganges water sharing signed between Bangladesh and India expired in 1982 after its five year term. The arrangement for sharing the Ganges water since 1982 was provided by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the leaders of government of the two countries in 1982. The arrangement expired in May 1984. Since then there has been no agreement between the two countries to share the water of the Ganges during lean season.

Bangladesh tried hard to reach a fresh agreement with India. But India initially did not respond. The 26th and 27th meeting of JRC had also failed to arrive at a consensus.

CSO: 4600/1671

BANGLADESH

REPORT ON BANGLADESH-MALAYSIA DISCUSSIONS DENIED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Government has asked all concerned to be alerted against possible deception regarding recruitment of Bangladeshi workers for employment in Malaysia, reports BSS.

In an official handout issued in Dhaka on Monday night, the Government said none had been given any permission to recruit workers from Bangladesh for Malaysia.

The handout said Bangladesh and Malaysia held discussions at Minister and Secretary level regarding the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers for Malaysia on May 24.

On May 26, Bangladesh and Malaysia at Secretary level signed the records of discussion which was not an agreement. In the light of this discussion, the question of recruitment of Bangladesh workers for Malaysia does not arise.

It was agreed in principle regarding the recruitment of Bangladeshi rubber, palm and tea garden workers in the meeting. Both sides apprised each other regarding recruitment and appointment rules of workers in the meeting. It was agreed that the basic policies regarding recruitment of labourers like wages, duration of job and other conditions of employment would be exchanged between the two.

The handout said in case of recruitment of foreign workers in Malaysia, the recruiting organisation or its agent must take registration and prior permission from the Home Ministry and the visas must be stamped from the Malaysian Mission of the concerned country. The Malaysian Home Ministry give permission to the foreign workers to go to the place of work after examining them in the airport.

No recruiting agency would be allowed to recruit foreign workers without following these formalities, the handout added.

CSO: 4600/1669

BANGLADESH

PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR BRIEFS OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Pakistan Ambassador Tanvir Ahmad Khan on Monday described his country's relations with Bangladesh as 'very good' reports BSS.

At a briefing with the Overseas Correspondents Association Bangladesh (OCAB) in Dhaka, Mr Khan said trade between the two South Asian nations was building up, the volume was already good with the balance in favour of Bangladesh.

The relation between Pakistan and Bangladesh was such he said, that there were no problems which 'cannot be solved.'

Replying to a question, he said that his country recognised the problem of the stranded Pakistanis.

'We do not stand rigidly on legalistic ground of the 1973 agreement under which we have already taken all the 170 000 people of the agreed categories,' he said.

The ambassador said that Tareta-e-Alam al Islam has taken over the problem for which the organisation was raising funds for the non-locals' repatriation and rehabilitation in Pakistan.

Once the fund is available with the Rabeta the problem will be solved, he expressed the hope.

Ambassador Tanvir said considerable progress had already been made in repatriation. On the question of assets and liabilities he said no scientific study on it has so far been made and that no framework has yet emerged on it which could lead to discussions.

He said "There are no problem which cannot be solved."

The Ambassador praised the people of Bangladesh for the will and determination with which they were facing the cyclone tragedy.

It is significant, he said, that both india and Pakistan have responded to the occasion.

Referring to the visit already paid by the Sri Lankan and Indian leaders as well as the proposed visit by the Pakistan leader, he said 'It augurs well for the South Asian region.'

'This signifies that things are moving rightly," Ambassador Khan said.

CSO: 4500/1669

BANGLADESH

ADB DECLINES DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR DHAKA BANKS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by Nizamuddin]

[Text] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has made it clear to the Government that it would no longer provide any development finance support to Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) if the two organisations were not reorganised.

The Government and the donor agencies, to recall here, signed earlier in Dhaka a memorandum of understanding under which the BSB and the BSRS were to be restructured by May 15 '85. The failure of the Government to implement the decision has caused great anxiety and concern in the ADB.

The President of the bank expressed his concern in a recent letter sent to the Principal Finance Adviser. The ADB chief stated in that letter that it would not accord any new sanctions of funds to the BSB and BSRS if the two development finance institutions were not restructured in accordance with the memorandum of understanding.

Under the restructuring formula BSB is to function as the primary source of term lending and the BSRS is to transform itself into a servicing company providing technical management and consultancy services.

BSRS according to the memorandum of understanding reached between the Government and the donor agencies, is to undertake term lending only to the extent necessary for rehabilitation of projects included in its current portfolio.

Meanwhile the ADB President informed the principal finance adviser that it would approve six sub-loan applications worth 868,000 US dollars for re-lending purposes by BSB. In all, 17 such applications were earlier placed before the ADB for sub-loan purposes. The bank rejected four sub-loan applications from BSRS and BSB on the ground that these were not considered viable by it. Additional data about the same have been asked for by the ADB.

The ADB President had urged the Government to clearly state its position about the future roles of BSB and BSRS.

CSO: 4600/1670

BANGLADESH

PAPER NOTES MISMANAGEMENT OF DISASTER RELIEF AID

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Widespread mismanagement in the distribution of relief materials in the cyclone hit coastal areas has added to the miseries of thousands of people as outbreak of diarrhoea, viral fever, jaundice and other diseases has worsened the situation further.

Meanwhile, rough weather continued to be a major obstacle to reaching relief materials to remote areas in the cyclone and tidal surge affected coastal belt. The worst affected Urir Char is still the target of major relief operation both by the government and non-government agencies while many other affected areas are yet to be brought under relief operation.

Reports from the remote areas reaching Dhaka suggest that little has been done to divert the flow of relief materials to the more affected but less publicised islands mainly under Noakhali district. It is apparent that all roads of relief teams lead to Urir Char. The government also announced some concessional measures for the inhabitants of Urir Char. These include cash donation as house building grant. But the unofficial teams returning from the affected areas noted that no such measure was taken in case of any other island or affected areas.

Unofficial medical teams returning to the capital from the affected areas narrated a gloomy scene prevailing all over the

areas. According to them, in Sandwip over 2000 people have been attacked with diarrhoea. The death toll in the island was now over 50. Officials sources have so far confirmed 10 deaths there.

The tidal surge washed away hundreds of miles of cross dams in the affected areas. These dams used to protect the land-masses of the off shore-islands from the intrusion of saline water from the Bay. Steps are yet to be taken to repair those dams on an emergency basis.

Saline water intruding into islands through the breaches of the cross dams are now making life miserable by spoiling the sources of pure drinking water and delaying the process of agricultural rehabilitation. The cyclone and tidal surge damaged crop over 1.5 lakh acres of land.

Outbreak of diarrhoeas has also been reported from far flung islands of Char Bata, Char Gangchil, Char Nizam and other islands that are yet to be reached. Meanwhile, fresh outbreak has been reported from Mahesh Khali. No medical team has yet reached this offshore island. Only two days ago, a shipment of relief too message to meet the needs reached there. A similar situation is prevailing in Chakoria upazila of Chittagong district in the coastal belt. No relief material has yet reached the upazila where the May 24 catastrophe inflicted heavy damage.

BANGLADESH

BHUTANESE PRINCESS LEADS SOLIDARITY DELEGATION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Princess Ashi Sonam C. Wangchuk arrived in Dhaka yesterday as personal envoy of the King of Bhutan on a two-day visit to express solidarity with Bangladesh for the recent cyclone disaster.

Talking to BSS at the Zia International Airport on her arrival by Royal Druk Airlines, the Princess said, "I am here to express the sorrow and condolences of the King and the people of Bhutan at this hour of grief."

"Being neighbouring countries," she said, "we have a lot of feeling and affection for the people of Bangladesh."

Princess Ashi, an elder sister of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, was warmly received by Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Begum Chowdhury, senior foreign office officials and Charge d'Affaires of Bhutan Leki Dorji.

She is accompanied by her husband Prince Tesewang Rixin, four-year-old son Prince Mila Singye Rixin and a high level Bhutanese delegation.

She leaves Dhaka for Thimpu today.

Donates Rs 20 Lakh

The visiting Princess, Ashi Sonam C. Wangchuk of Bhutan called on President Lt Gen H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

The Princess handed over to the President a cheque for 20 lakh rupees towards the President's relief fund on behalf of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan.

Receiving the donation, President Ershad thanked her for the kind gesture and requested her to convey his greetings to the King, the Government and friendly people of Bhutan.

Visits Islands

Princess Ashi Sonam C. Wangchuk, personal envoy of the King of Bhutan, yesterday afternoon saw some of the cyclone affected islands, reports BSS.

The Princess flew low over the Char Clerk and a number of the nearby islands. Many people in these islands had been washed away by the tidal surge which also took a heavy toll in cattle, crops and dwellings.

While flying low over the islands, princess Ashi and members of her delegation could see relief work going on there. Senior officials of the Foreign Office accompanied the Princess and her delegation during the flight.

The entourage of Princess Ashi, an elder sister of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, included her husband Prince Tsewang Rixin, her four-year-old son Prince Mila Singye Rixin and senior officials of the Bhutanese Government.

On return to the city after seeing the cyclone battered islands, the Princess called on Begum Raushan Ershad at Sena Bhaban.

She expressed sympathy at the loss of life and property caused by the cyclone and remained with Begum Ershad for some time.

CSO: 4600/1674

BANGLADESH

OPPOSITION LEADERS DEMAND RELEASE OF DETAINEES

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 7 Jun 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wazed, BNP chairman Begum Khaleda Zia and CPB General Secretary have demanded release of all political detainees.

Political detainees who are yet to be released included Awami League Organising Secretary Tofail Ahmed, its central leader Motia Chowdhury, BAKSAL leader Shah Mohammad Abu Jafar, Workers' Party leader Dasim Ali, BNP leaders Obaidur Rahman and Barrister Rafiqul Islam, BSD (Mahboob) leaders Mahmudur Rahman Manna, CBB leaders Belayet Hossain and Mrinal Chowdhury.

Meanwhile, Samyabadidai chief Mohammad Toaha, CPB leader and rail sramik union president M.S. Huq, Democratic League vice-president Oli Ahad and Biplobi Communist League leader Abdul Matin have been released from detention. Mohammad Toaha who was released from Chittagong Jail on June 3 has been sick for long. He had a heart attack yesterday and has been removed to Suhrawardy Hospital.

Awami League Organising Secretary Tofail Ahmed now detained in Comilla jail has been suffering from various diseases including gastric ulcer and piles, says his wife who met her husband in Comilla Jail on June 2.

She has urged the government to transfer him immediately to the P.G. Hospital in Dhaka for proper treatment.

Hasina Wazed, in a statement issued on June 5, demanded release of all political detainees including her party leaders Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Ansar Ali, Abul Kashem and Badal.

Begum Khaleda Zia in her statement has sought release of the political detainees including her party leaders and student leaders.

CPB General Secretary Mohammad Farhad demanded release of political detainees belonging to his party including Nurur Rahman, Mrinal Sarker, Belayet Hossain, Mrinal Chowdhury, Mustafizur Rahman Angur, Hirendra Dutta, Aminul Islam, Abdullah Hil Kafi, Proddhut Kumar and Montu Ghose.

Student leaders now under detention include DUCSU vp Akhtaruzzaman and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal general secretary Jalal Ahmed.

According to a competent source, those workers of political parties and student organisations who were arrested with bombs and other weapons would be prosecuted.

CSO: 4600/1675

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

URIR CHAR ADMINISTRATION--Urir Char, June 1--This new land mass which was battered by the devastating cyclone and tidal surge will now be turned into an administrative unit as union parishad. The union will consist of four villages. The Government has taken a massive relief operation to rehabilitate the present population of only 2000 in this island. Before the cyclone and tidal surge the population here was in between 8500 and 10,000. Government will provide 21 seers of rice per week for 4 months to each family. Arrangement will be made to make available three to five bighas of land to each family and they will be given 21 pieces of c.i. sheet and eight pillars to construct houses. Army and Navy personnel are now constructing homestead for the affected people. Each family will get two sarees, two lungis, one cooking pot, one lamp and two plates, one mug and one dao. Navy boats will also ferry back 600 people to this island who took shelter in relief camps in Sandwip and they will all be rehabilitated permanently in this island. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jun 85 p 8]

AMBASSADOR TO PRC--Beijing, May 28--The new Bangladesh Ambassador to China, A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan, presented his credentials to President Li Xiannian, reports Xinhua. The ceremony was witnessed by Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing who served as China's Ambassador to Bangladesh a few years ago. Ambassador Enayetullah Khan arrived in Beijing May 21. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 May 85 p 4]

DHAKA-MOSCOW TIES--Land Administration and Land Reforms Minister Dr T.I.M. Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury on Friday inaugurated a three-day exhibition of Soviet agricultural tractors and other implements in Dhaka with a hope that the existing bond of relations between Bangladesh and the USSR would be further developed through mutual understanding. The exhibition which will remain open till May 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. was organised at Kakrail by Corona International and Traktoro Export of USSR. Speaking on the occasion the Minister emphasised on modernisation of agriculture to boost production. He reiterated the government's priority in the development of agricultural sector. The Soviet Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr Vladimir Belayev in his speech said that the Soviet-Bangladesh relations were based on reciprocity, equality and respect to mutual interest. Recalling the support of his country to Bangladesh during the Liberation and post-liberation rebuilding task, he asserted that the trade relations between Bangladesh and Soviet Union would be further developed for mutual benefit.

Earlier Mr T.R. Chowdhury, Managing Director of Corona International, assured that his company would work for the development of the agricultural sector of the country. The Land Administration and Land Reforms Minister went round the exhibition where famous belarus tractors of the USSR, trailers and other agricultural appliances were on display. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 May 85 p 8]

SHORTCOMINGS IN AGRICULTURES--The agricultural growth rate during the Second Five-year Plan period which culminates on June 30 this year will be in the neighbourhood of 3.8 percent. Originally the growth rate was fixed at 7 percent. This was subsequently considered too ambitious a target and was brought down to five percent. Even this target will not be reached. The foodgrain production in the fiscal year 84-85 was severely handicapped first by a period of drought and later by three successive floods. The foodgrain production target of 167 lakh tons will fall short by seven lakh tons. The wheat production, however, has made remarkable stride during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The wheat production began in 1978-79 in two and a half lakh acres. The wheat production acreage has increased to 18 and a half lakh acres by the current fiscal year. The Second Five-year Plan target was to increase the wheat acreage to 20 lakh acres. The per acre yield of wheat is 22 maunds and the cost of production per acre is roughly Tk 3000. Approximately 60 lakh acres of arable land have been brought under irrigation. There has been almost a 71 percent increase in the acreage of the irrigated area. Only 35 lakh acres were under irrigation before the commencement of the Second Five-Year Plan period. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 May 85 p 1]

INDIANS STEAL CATTLE--Chapainawabganj, May 28--A gang of Indian milkmen reportedly backed by Indian BSF trespassed into Bangladesh territory at south-west border of Bholahat upazila under Chapainawabganj district on May 23 and snatched away 100 heads of cattle, it is learnt. According to an authentic source, Indian milkmen intruded into the territory of Bangladesh at Alalpur and Jotsreedev mouza under Bholahat upazila and attacked farmers and cowboys. When protested, the miscreants threw arrows at the farmers. As a result, Afzal, 32, of Alalpur and Nurul Huda, 24, of Saraupur were injured. It may be mentioned that Alalpur and Jotstreedeb are just situated at one-mile distance from Bangladesh border. At one stage, BDR men came to the spot when Indian BSF opened fire at random. The BDR jawans also replied to prevent the further damage to Bangladesh property and loss of life. Thereafter the BSF personnel left the Bangladesh territory. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 May 85 p 2]

HASINA ON DISASTER--Sheikh Hasina, President of Bangladesh Awami League, in a statement yesterday expressed concern over the loss of lives and property wrought by the devastating cyclone which hit the coastal areas on Friday night. She alleged no measure had been taken to shift the people from cyclone prone areas despite timely warning by the appropriate agencies. The Awami League President, who was released from house arrest for about three months, blamed the Government for not undertaking rescue operation to save the people swept away in the bay by the tidal bore. The Awami League President urged the Government to launch relief operation on an

emergency basis and said the official figure regarding cyclone was far from reality. She said only at Charpirbakhshaw, about 10,000 people were killed as the entire area was depopulated following the cyclone. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 May 85 p 1]

COMMODITY AID SHORT--Bangladesh is likely to receive only around 75 percent of the commodity aid pledged by the donors for the current fiscal year (1985-85). A review of the commodity aid position made by the External Resources Division (ERD) of the Finance Ministry said that a maximum of 385.6 million US dollars out of a total of 503.2 million dollars of commodity aid pledged by the Bangladesh Aid Group members would be available this fiscal year ending in June. As to the factors behind the lowest ever amount of commodity aid this year, the review pointed out that the commitment of 130 million dollars by the IDA has become uncertain during the current year. Besides commitments of 55 million dollars by France and the ADB would not materialize due to delay in signing agreements. Two major commodity aid donors, Japan and the IDA, are making unexpected delay in disbursing the aid, the review observed. As a result, the commitment and disbursement of commodity aid during the first eight months (July-February) of the current fiscal year stood at 141.5 million and 232 million dollars respectively as against 171.1 million and 243 million dollars during the corresponding period last year. It may be recalled that the disbursement target of commodity aid this year was estimated to be 600 million dollars. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 17 May 85 p 1]

PANEL ON RATIONING--The Government has formed a 14-member national committee on rationing system headed by Energy Minister Mr Anwar Hossain. The committee will evaluate the statutory rationing system, consider its substitutes or total abolition and thereby recommend specific suggestions in the light of the national food security policy. According to an official source the committee will evaluate the present rationing system to review the national food security policy. The committee which will place its report by July 1985 includes Minister for Food Major General Mahabbat Jan Choudhury, Minister for Agriculture Major General M.A. Munem, Principal Finance Adviser Minister of Finance Mr M. Syeduzzaman. Other members of the committee are Secretary, Labour and Manpower, Secretary Food, who is also the member-Secretary of the committee, Secretary, Defence, Chairman, Bangladesh Economic Association, President, Dhaka Bar Association, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University, Vice-Chancellor Engineering University, President, Bangladesh Sangbadid Samity (journalists association), President Federation of Chamber of Commerce and President, Jatiya Mahila Sengstha. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 May 85 p 3]

JAPANESE ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS--The Ambassador-designate of Japan to Bangladesh, Mr Yushiomo Tanaka, presented his credentials to President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban on Sunday morning, reports BSS. While presenting his letter of credence, the new Ambassador expressed the hope that during his tenure of office the already existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of their people. Reciprocating the sentiments President Ershad assured Mr Tanaka of every

possible assistance in the smooth discharge of his duties. Earlier on arrival at Bangabhaban the new Ambassador was given the President's Guard Regiment. He took the salute and inspected the Guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 20 May 85 p 3]

CSO: 4600/1676

INDIA

ANALYST SEES WARPED THINKING IN INDO-U.S. RELATIONSHIPS

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jun 85 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] In these days of jet-speed diplomacy, a well orchestrated prologue to a State visit gets transformed in no time into a felicitous epilogue for proclaiming its success as part of the powerful media effort that goes with it. The joint communique, drafted and adopted in advance, is intended to reflect largely the spirit and not always the substance of the exchanges between the heads of government even at the best of times.

The high rhetoric of such occasions no doubt helps to focus attention on their shared interests, but it also neatly glosses over divergences of opinion. The differences begin to surface when faced with the same compulsions all over again. The art of diplomacy therefore calls for an unflinching capacity backed by hard-headed realism in maintaining a delicate balance between a country's enlightened self-interest and its commitment to certain fundamental principles.

It is just a week since the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, returned from his successful visit to the Soviet Union. But the afterglow has started fading out rather rapidly, because the spotlight has already shifted to his impending trip to the U.S. It was a tactical mistake to have timed these visits to the capitals of the two super-powers so very closely, with a gap of just a fortnight, since both the U.S. and the Soviet Union are bound to make an invidious comparison of what is said or not said during the two visits, to draw their own conclusions.

Difficult job

An innocent over-statement in one capital, more as a polite gesture than a deliberate identification with the stand of that particular super-power on any controversial or emotive issue, can be mistaken by the other as an unintended affront to it. Similarly, an attempt to under-play an embarrassing difference can be misconstrued as reluctance to speak out boldly for upholding a principle. It is not easy to steer a steady middle course without offending, or at least disappointing, one or the other of the two super-powers in talking of the same global issues in the two capitals within such a short span of time.

If the Moscow visit went off very well as expected, it was because there were no imponderable elements in Indo-Soviet relations. The new Soviet leadership had already got the message across that it would continue to value India's friendship and assist its economic development, besides meeting the country's defence requirements. The Indian Prime Minister in turn was able to allay the misgivings, if any, in the minds of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev and his senior colleagues about his so-called tilt towards Washington.

He evidently succeeded in assuring them with his characteristic candour that, like non-alignment, friendship with the Soviet Union would remain one of the basic tenets of India's foreign policy, while driving home the point that it would not be incompatible with this well-established relationship to strive for better understanding with Washington. The U.S. did not expect him to dilute India's relationship with Moscow to qualify for its affections, but India watchers in Washington did feel that perhaps he could have avoided some of his over-exuberant references to it.

Now it will be Moscow's turn to watch every word of what Mr. Rajiv Gandhi says in Washington, to discern the hidden implications, if any, while looking for evidence of his pro-American inclinations. But the Soviet leaders are wise enough to realise that there can be no abrupt reversals in the foreign policy objectives of a country like India with its democratic traditions.

The Janata Government too continued to retain the close relationship with Moscow since it had proved to be beneficial to India's interests. It is, therefore, quite unthinkable that the present Prime Minister would deviate from this policy, even if he goes out of his way to improve Indo-American relations.

The great mistake the U.S. is making is in imagining that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi can be persuaded or placated to adopt a slightly right of centre stance, without impairing India's close links with the Soviet Union, in the name of restoring the missing element of balance. The American concept of a more equitable relationship with the two super-powers is that the pre-

sent government should not only throw its doors open to U.S. investments to qualify for increased technological assistance, but also develop a military supply relationship to reduce the country's heavy dependence on Moscow in this highly important sphere.

No consistent policy

A sad feature of Indo-American relations has been that neither country has had a coherent policy towards the other, aimed at removing frictions, promoting better understanding and paving the way for mutually beneficial cooperation. The Indian and American attitudes towards each other have been conditioned by and large by their conflicting responses to developments in other countries like Pakistan.

If the Americans are obsessed with the thought that India tends to justify Soviet actions, even when Moscow is not entitled to any benefit of doubt as in Afghanistan, to justify its own ambivalent attitudes, the Indian fixation with the danger of a possible destabilisation bid by the U.S. has certainly warped its thinking and coloured its policies to a considerable extent.

Though it is in the larger interests of the U.S. to have better relations with India, it is much more important for this country to have a good working relationship with the U.S. for strengthening its own international position. As a developing country that can ill afford to divert its meagre resources to meet increasing defence demands, it would be in India's own interest to maintain a balanced relationship with both the super-powers to enhance its leverage in discouraging the U.S. from arming Pakistan beyond the limits of its tolerance.

Lack of expertise

Amidst its global preoccupations, the U.S. has neither the time nor the compulsion to accord high priority to improvement of relations with India in a sustained manner over a period of time. Its *ad hoc* responses acquire some significance in special situations, when the policy-makers in Washington feel the urge to take a fresh look at Indo-American relations. But otherwise no single U.S. administration has pursued a consistent policy of making a conscious effort to win India's confidence and influence its policies and actions. It is for this reason that the latest attempts to establish a better rapport with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi have met with some degree of reservation in India about the possible motivations behind it.

At the same time the ruling establishment in Delhi cannot evade its share of responsibility for the recurring frictions in Indo-American relations. It has made no persistent effort at any time to dispel the misunderstandings and evolve a mutually acceptable basis for a better relationship by concentrating more on what unites rather than divides them. As head of the Government, the Prime Minister is entitled to the best possible professional advice in such matters, but unfortunately the advisers try to anticipate his own thought and try to tailor their advice accordingly, to give the impression that they also think on the same lines. The result is that there is no place for expertise in the conduct of the country's foreign relations.

At sixes and sevens

The External Affairs Ministry is in bad shape with nobody in effective control of it. An overburdened Prime Minister, who is holding this portfolio as an additional charge, has no time to attend to its routine work or provide higher policy directions. The Minister of State does not have the necessary stature or authority to deal with visiting dignitaries or provide the kind of leadership required in running this vast ministry with nearly a hundred missions all over the world. The three Secretaries function compartmentally in their respective domains, reporting directly to the Minister of State without much coordination.

The Policy Planning Committee, created in 1967 in implementation of the Pillai Committee Report on reorganisation of the External Affairs Ministry, has had a chequered career and not meshed into it. It has been headed by officers of the rank of Joint Secretaries and Additional Secretaries to Ministers of State and those with Cabinet rank, with their functions undefined except in very general terms. It has led to a lot of avoidable confusion and friction in the functioning of the Ministry, besides duplication of authority and direction.

The right place for this committee is in the Prime Minister's Secretariat from where it could function as a think tank, producing policy papers and posing alternative courses of action for his consideration. Once the necessary decisions have been taken by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Foreign Minister and the Chairman of the committee, the Secretaries concerned can be directed to implement them. One way of tidying up this messy situation is to appoint Mr. G. Parthasarathy as a full-fledged Foreign Minister so that the Prime Minister can have the benefit of his vast experience in a properly institutionalised manner, free from the present *ad hocism*.

Committees of indecision

At the higher levels too, the omnibus Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, which has to deal with both internal and external affairs as well as defence matters, has no time to function effectively as a Government within a Government. There is no effective coordination between External Affairs, Defence, Home and other Ministries dealing with sensitive political and security issues, although several secretary-level coordination committees exist on paper under the general supervision of the Cabinet Secretary who is burdened with too many other problems.

There are either too few senior Ministers and top officials dealing with too many issues, or too many dabbling in too few subjects requiring specialised attention. They are all busy with one committee meeting or the other most of the time, but few decisions are taken at any level since the general tendency is to refer almost all issues, in one form or the other, to the Prime Minister himself for final determination. The result is too much concentration of power and responsibility at the top with different layers of the establishment contributing precious little to the decision-making processes of government.

A lot of briefs are prepared for the guidance of the Prime Minister before he goes abroad, but very few contain an incisive analysis of the options open and the hazards of alternative courses of action in a given situation. So successive Prime Ministers have been obliged to rely more on their own instincts rather than policy briefs in discussing various issues with different heads of government. There is no single person of any consequence with the exception of the Prime Minister himself who has an over-all picture of what he intends to achieve during his U.S. visit.

Bold initiative needed

Apart from going through the motions of repeating the set themes on U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan, nuclear disarmament, the North-South dialogue and IDA replenishments, the Indian delegation will be only reacting to what the Americans have to say in other global, regional or bilateral issues. It was relatively easy to conduct the dialogue in Moscow since there were no problems of any kind between India and the Soviet Union. But it is going to be a tough task in Washington where the American negotiators will use every form of persuasion and pressure open to them to make India move away a bit from the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister is taking a formidable delegation to Washington, but his problem is to make it work together as a cohesive group to provide him with the best possible advice. It calls for some bold and imaginative approach to move away from the beaten track and desist from adopting defensive postures to justify India's policies and actions. It should display enough courage and comprehension in avoiding past mistakes and acting with greater vision in projecting the image of a more dynamic and self-assured India that is extending its hand of friendship to the people of America, instead of harping on past differences and adopting an attitude of carping criticism in place of innovative action.

CSO: 4600/1690

INDIA

REPORT ON GORBACHEV INTERVIEW WITH PTI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 May 85 p 1

[Text] MOSCOW, May 19 (PTI)--MR. Mikhail Gorbachov, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, has spoken warmly of the "personal relationship" he and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, have already established and says their meeting here next week will make it possible to strengthen the personal contacts and friendship between the two countries.

In the first interview he has granted to any foreign correspondent since his election to the Soviet party leadership in March, Mr. Gorbachov described the coming visit of Mr. Gandhi to the Soviet Union as "a big event in the life of our two states," which recalled the tradition of mutual visits set by Jawaharlal Nehru. The Soviet leader also paid tribute to Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

He answered questions about the 'secret' of his successful rise to the top Soviet position and about fears expressed in the United States that its interests will be jeopardised if he pushes through his economic reforms and make his country a formidable power.

Mr. Gorbachov in a dark blue suit with a matching tie that stood out on a light blue thinly striped shirt spoke for 53 minutes after handing over written answers to a set of three questions submitted in advance. He gave the interview late on Saturday afternoon in his fifth-floor office at the CPSU central committee building in central Moscow. The name plate on the door to the ante-room of his well-appointed working place simply read: "M. S. Gorbachov." He spoke sitting at a large conference table with two aides writing down his remarks in Russian.

Continuing Tradition

When the correspondent observed that he was violating the two-day weekend holiday prescribed under Soviet law by working on Saturdays, Mr. Gorbachov laughed and said work had got accumulated in Moscow while he was away meeting people in Leningrad.

He added: "Both the Soviet Union and India are great states and their leaders shoulder great responsibilities and have to work vigorously. It requires not only creative and intellectual but also physical work."

He said he was glad and pleased to grant the interview on the eve of the 'very good and auspicious occasion' of the Indian Prime Minister's visit. He began the interview by himself asking the question what the Soviets expected from the visit and answering his own questions.

Mr. Gorbachov said he was hopeful the forthcoming visit would continue the tradition begun by Jawaharlal Nehru who was and is 'very much respected in our country'.

He said he had seen with great attention the film Nehru produced by Sham Benegal and Yuri Aldokhin which had so successfully portrayed the life of the Indian leader, the goals he had set and the efforts he had made to attain those goals. He had "no doubt that the film will be received with interest not only in the Soviet Union and India but also in other countries as well."

He referred to the visits of Mrs. Indira Gandhi for whom he expressed respect and paid tribute.

Mr. Gorbachov said: "Every summit between our leaders has made its contribution to our relations and our international relations. We hope this visit of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister of India will be a great contribution not only to the bilateral relations but to the struggle for peace and for greater international security".

"I and Rajiv Gandhi", he added, "have already established a personal relationship. And, of course, this visit will make it possible to expand and strengthen relations and personal contacts that are conducive for good and efficient relations of our countries."

He said every Soviet citizen had deep in his heart friendship for 'the great people of India' and 'for its really great culture and its contribution to the overall progress on mankind'.

"We think that a united, strong and peace-loving India is essential to the world today," said the Soviet leader. He later went on to speak of his great personal interest in India and of his intention to make use of Mr. Gandhi's invitation 'at the appropriate moment' and visit India.

Asked if he would discuss the 'secret' of how he had reached the top position in the Soviet Union so young and so fast, Mr. Gorbachov first observed that he was not so young having been born in the year of 1931. He then said one should look for the 'secret' really in the Soviet way of life.

Of Things Past

Mr. Gorbachov said he came from a peasant family and his grandparents on both his mother's and father's side worked the land and the children imbibed the habit of working early in life.

The Soviet leader said he would not like to boast but wished to illustrate how he himself became a participant in the effort to build a new way of life in

the Soviet Union. At the age of 15, he began work on a harvester combine as a mechanic and driver and stayed on the job for five years even as he continued studies at school. And when he was 18 he had been awarded the order of physical labour for that achievement.

Then in 1950 he got the opportunity to begin study in the law faculty of the Moscow state university. He was also involved in public work having been a secretary of the young communist league cell at school. "That was the beginning," he said, "you know, well begun, half done."

All this and his further work in the political and economic spheres at the instructions of the party since 1955 had enriched his life and expanded his horizons, he added.

Mr. Gorbachov said his work was evaluated by his comrades and superiors and his duties expanded and responsibilities grew.

CSO: 4600/1678

INDIA

EDITORIAL SAYS INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS 'ON A PLATEAU'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 May 85 p 24

[Editorial]

[Text]

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's discussions with Mr. Gorbachov in Moscow have gone as well as could be expected in the circumstances. But while both governments have good reasons to be satisfied with the outcome in the form of two agreements on economic cooperation, it would be unconvincing to represent it as a new milestone in Indo-Soviet relations. They have reached a kind of plateau and cannot be pushed to a significantly higher level for quite some time unless an external factor such as a Pakistani nuclear explosion or Western military assistance to Sri Lanka intervenes to give this country an acute sense of insecurity it does not presently suffer from. Two points are notable in this regard.

First, it is more than a decade that Soviet and Indian economies have not been complementary. India has been having a trade surplus with the Soviet Union year after year precisely because it has not been able to import from that country what it needs by way of technology for its economic growth. The Soviets have resented the Indian trade surplus but unjustly because in the heart of their hearts they too must know that they are in no position to meet India's requirements of technology. This has not meant and does not mean that the Soviet Union cannot continue to assist this country in certain fields such as mining, oil exploration, power and steel. But these are traditional fields of Soviet assistance so the new agreements follow an established pattern. They do not break new ground. Indeed, the Soviet Union itself has been seeking access to Western and Japanese know-how in those areas in which India is deficient and wants to make headway.

Secondly, while the Soviet Union can and in fact will continue to meet a substantial part of our requirements of sophisticated weapons and thus to strengthen our defences, it cannot help us cope with the specific challenges we face. It is significant that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi should have used the press conference in Moscow on Wednesday to reiterate the point that the Reagan administration was not doing all it could to prevent Pakistan from acquiring

nuclear weapons. For implicit in it was the admission that the U.S. alone enjoyed that kind of leverage in Islamabad. And as it happens, in immediate terms Sri Lanka has come to pose an even tougher problem which can be contained only with Western, especially U.S., cooperation. The Sri Lanka government, as we know only too well, has been trying to involve the United States and Britain in its internal crisis resulting from the increasingly bloody Sinhalese-Tamil conflict. Washington and London have refrained from responding to President Jayewardene's direct and indirect pleas out of respect for India's sensibilities and out of the expectation that New Delhi would show a similar concern for their interests. Which means that New Delhi cannot afford to make moves which could make the U.S. and Britain less sensitive to its interests.

Thus in this context of India's current difficulties, it is rather surprising that Mr. Gorbachov should have recalled Mr. Brezhnev's proposal of Asian collective security. The proposal was neither viable (in terms of the existing situation in the region) nor consistent with India's non-aligned status when it was first mooted in 1969. That was why Mrs. Gandhi refused to endorse it in any way. If anything, the situation has become far less favourable since for launching such an initiative. The Iran-Iraq war, now in its fifth year, should by itself suffice to demonstrate that it just makes no sense to talk in terms of collective security in Asia. And as far as India is concerned, it is under even stronger compulsions than in the seventies not to endorse a proposal which the West regards as being directed against it. In fact, the Soviet Union's own experience since 1969 should have dissuaded Mr. Gorbachov from reviving it. That he revived it might be an expression of his own bafflement. Perhaps he had Afghanistan particularly in mind. We do not know Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's response in his private discussions with Mr. Gorbachov. But judging by what he said at the press conference in Moscow on Wednesday, it looks as if he has politely put it aside.

This is not to under-estimate the importance of the visit. The intention is to put it in a proper perspective. Friendship with the Soviet Union has been and must remain an integral part of Indian foreign policy. It is inconceivable that New Delhi can work out a security arrangement which excludes the Soviet Union. So it is only proper that Mr. Gandhi should have visited that country first. But New Delhi cannot be insensitive to the environment, both international and regional, in which it operates. By the way he handled questions regarding his proposed visit to the United States, the memorandum of understanding with that country on the import of high technology, and Afghanistan at the press conference in Moscow, it seemed reasonably clear that Mr. Gandhi was aware of the realities he has to cope with as Prime Minister. Incidentally, this might explain partly why the Chinese have taken a positive view of Mr. Gandhi's visit.

INDIA

HINDU ANALYST REVIEWS INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 May 85 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 19--The Soviet Government is highlighting the fact, in its publicity build up for Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit, that the Prime Minister of India is paying his first official visit to the Soviet Union on the 30th anniversary of the visit of his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955 which opened the way for a rapid development of Indo-Soviet relations.

As the first Prime Minister of Independent India, Nehru visited the two communist giants, China in 1954 and the Soviet Union in 1955, at the height of the cold war much to the chagrin of the western powers, especially the U.S. But the western powers also deftly utilised Nehru's visit to Moscow to sound the post-Stalin leadership in the Kremlin about the possibilities of a thaw in the frozen east-west relations. The then British Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, who had been in touch with Nehru during his Soviet visit, invited him to London for a quiet week-end at the Chequers to exchange views on the Soviet attitudes, since the heads of the Governments of the so-called big four--the U.S., Soviet Union, Britain and France--were due to meet in Geneva a month later to check the precipitous drift towards a nuclear confrontation.

Unimpressed dictator: The great Soviet dictator, Josef Stalin, like his Chinese counter-part, Mao Zedong, who believed that all power stemmed from the barrel of a gun, was not impressed either by Gandhiji's talk of non-violence or Nehru's faith in non-alignment. He never bothered to see the first Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, despite repeated requests during her three-year tenure.

But Stalin, finally relented and received her successor, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan towards the end of his term. He put some searching questions about India's continued associations with Britain--like the retention of British officers as commanders-in-chief of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force during the first formative years of India's independence--to find out whether India still considered itself a free country.

Changed attitude: After Stalin's death, the Soviet attitude towards India changed rapidly with Bulganin and Khrushchev playing an important role.

During the brief Malenkov interregnum, the relationship improved but made no great headway until the B and K duo emerged at the top in the Kremlin. It was about that time that Nehru went to the Soviet Union and spent a fortnight visiting many places.

In the cruel game of Soviet politics, Khrushchev edged out Bulganin after using him as a convenient front-man for controlling the Kremlin. But he played a very important role in establishing a close relationship with India which has developed considerably in the last three decades. His successor, Brezhnev, consolidated and expanded this relationship, treating it as one of the major pursuits of Soviet foreign policy in the wake of the worsening Sino-Soviet relations.

Veterans' support: De-Stalinisation had not yet begun when Nehru visited the Soviet Union, since Khrushchev had not yet consolidated his power and he was still depending on the active support of war heroes and party veterans like Vorshilov, Zhukov, Molotov, Mikoyan and even the deposed Malenkov, not to speak of Malinovsky and Bulganin. The dreaded secret police chief, Beria, had been shot by that time and the Soviet people in general were supporting Khrushchev's policy of liberalisation.

As one who covered Nehru's historic visits to both China and the Soviet Union at that time, I was a witness to the great veneration that he showed towards the living Mao and the dead Stalin. He met the Chinese leader in person and laid a wreath on the Soviet dictator's embalmed body in the Lenin Mausoleum, before Khrushchev had it removed from there.

Soviet discipline: After his talks in Moscow with the new Soviet leaders who received him with great warmth and deference, Nehru visited Leningrad, Stalin-grad, Yalta, Tbilis, Astrakhan, Samarkhand, Tashkent, Petropavlovsk and Sverdlovsk travelling over 8000 km inside the Soviet Union to get an idea of its economic reconstruction after the war. He was greatly impressed by the discipline and dedication with which the Soviet people were working hard in conditions of extreme austerity to rebuild their victorious motherland.

Nehru was deeply moved by what he saw of the savage destruction inflicted by the invading Nazi armies, while he was elated to see how a country that lost 16 million people in the war displayed such enormous zeal for reconstructing their country under the most adverse economic conditions. One of his most memorable experiences was to see a small plaque in the compound of the Indian embassy, shown to him by Khrushchev himself, marking the closest point that Napoleon's armies had reached on the outskirts of Moscow before being rolled back and decimated in the snow and slush of the Russian countryside.

Balanced relationship: All this is history to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who was just 10 years old when his mother accompanied his grandfather on the visit. He would have heard enough of their experiences from them at that time to be able to recall some of their impressions. But as a product of the new Indian generation with a technological vision of the country's future, he will be able to display greater flexibility in developing a balanced relationship with all the big powers without diluting India's friendship with the Soviet Union.

And if the Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachev regimes have kept up the continuity of the special Indo-Soviet relationship built up by Khrushchev and Brezhnev, the change of Government in India has made no difference to the fundamentals of this close association. The Janata Government, too, adhered to the policy of friendship with the Soviet Union without any major deviation. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi will not only try his best to adhere to this well-trodden path, but always develop a better equation with the new Soviet leadership to reflect the generational changes that have taken place in both India and the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4600/1677

INDIA

AGREEMENT ON INDO-SOVIET TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 May 85 p 4

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 30--The 22-member delegation of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry, which visited the Soviet Union this month signed an "umbrella agreement" with the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, providing for exchange of technology between Soviet and Indian enterprises.

The delegation, led by the president of the AIEI, Mr Gurpreet Singh, reached an understanding with Soviet leaders under which certain engineering products would be co-produced by the two countries.

Speaking to reporters on the outcome of the delegation's visit Mr Gurpreet Singh said that under the "umbrella agreement" AIEI identified for transfer of technology items like gas-based motor vehicles, oil-discovery equipment, and coal mining technology

The agreement on the concept of co-production envisaged production for the Indian and Soviet markets as well as for Third World countries.

Speaking of the prospects for the increased export of engineering goods to the Soviet Union, Mr Singh said they were "enormous", keeping in view the need to balance the two-way trade, and the additional credit of 1,000 million roubles being extended by the Soviet Union to India.

He said that the Indian delegation presented to the Soviet authorities its "shopping list", which included heavy machine tools, metallurgical technology and equipment, technology for special heavy duty trucks, pollution control systems, sophisticated furnace technology, and the manufacture of polyester film.

CSO: 4600/1685

19 July 1985

INDIA

INDIA OPPOSED TO U.S. STAND ON TRADE TALKS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Jun 85 p 6

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 31--The Indian authorities made it clear to an EEC delegation their opposition to a preparatory meeting of a new round of trade negotiations advocated by the USA and Japan. India took the position that a new round of multilateral trade talks should follow some tangible action on lowering protectionist barriers.

The two-member EEC delegation, Mr R. Abbot and Mr J.P. Derishborough, held discussions here on Wednesday with a team of Indian officials led by the Union Commerce Secretary, Mr Prem Kumar.

Mr Abbot told reporters that India was "somewhat hesitant" about the new round, particularly the proposed coverage of services within the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff framework and was unsure of any advantage to it. This was because the current work programme on safeguards and other issues was yet to be decided. India appeared "mistrustful" of the USA. Brazil and Egypt shared India's hesitancy over the new round of trade negotiations, Mr Abbot said.

Mr Abbot said that the community's position was clear: there should be "a consensus" before launching the trade negotiations. However, he said, he was hopeful that the GATT's work programme would be completed in the next three to four months. This could provide a basis for the trade negotiations.

Mr Abbot said that the EEC would not support the launching of the new round of trade negotiations without the participation of developing countries. "We will not have the trade round only with Americans", he said. Indeed, the EEC would like to have multilateral trade talks. The European Economic Community wanted parallel action on the monetary and financial side along with trade negotiations, as was insisted by France at the Western economic summit in Bonn.

He pointed out that European countries were sore with high interest policy pursued by the Reagan Administration attracting European savings for financing domestic budgetary deficits. However, the community fully supported the idea of a new round of negotiations to help promote world economic recovery and growth.

CSO: 4600/1686

INDIA

WRITER SEES DETERIORATION IN INDO-UK RELATIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 May 85 p 9

[Article by M. L. Kotru]

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 27--India's diplomatic ties with the West have been governed by a kind of love-hate relationship, occasional mutterings to the contrary notwithstanding. After his extensive talks with the Soviet leadership, Mr Rajiv Gandhi will soon be on his way to Europe and the USA, ostensibly to build bridges of understanding, leading to a better relationship.

Missing from Mr Gandhi's tour itinerary is a trip to Britain, with whom India has had an old historical and emotional relationship. One does not have to enumerate the many links which have brought the two countries closer after the India gained Independence. Jawaharlal Nehru made a great contribution to the building up of a special relationship with Britain.

Nehru, even as he emerged as the leader of the newly independent countries of the world, put great store by the Commonwealth link. Indira Gandhi, in her years as a spokeswoman of the Third World, continued to be regarded as a friend of Britain.

However, there appears to have been a discernible change in the relations between the two countries in the months after Indira Gandhi's assassination. The Government's view has been expressed in differing terms and tones.

Instead of adopting a firm line based on the historic relationship between the two countries, the multiplicity of opinions has only added to the confusion.

It appears to be clear just now that there is a distinct change for the worse in the country's relations with Britain. This change is largely the result not of decisions taken at the highest political level but by middle-level politicians and bureaucrats.

A case in point is the recent decision not to purchase the Westland helicopters, for which a letter of intent had apparently been signed when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. Obviously, the selection of the Westland helicopters must have been based on the recommendation of the Air Force and the ONGC, which have now suddenly found these helicopters unsuitable.

There are whisperings in the corridors of power that, in two other instances where detailed negotiations were held with manufacturers from the USA, the U.K. and Europe over the past two years and had resulted in the final selection of equipment of British origin, the discussions had been called off at the contract stage just to teach the British a lesson for having threatened to cut off aid and for not curbing the Kahlistanis.

Threats

The close relationship that existed between India and the U.K. appears to have suddenly been reduced to mutual recrimination and threats and counter-threats at lower levels of the administration. What was considered inadequate action against Khalistanis and Azad Kashmiris has resulted in cancelling the helicopter deal as well as other deals.

This has been construed as commercial blackmail in the U.K., resulting in veiled threats to cut off aid. This has, in turn, been countered by postponing or cancelling a number of contracts for vital defence equipment which were on the verge of being signed as if to tell the British where they get off. The contract selection for this seem to be only those having large financial implications over a fairly long duration, in addition to being vital for meeting our urgent defence needs.

CSO: 4600/1680

INDIA

INDIA, FRANCE SIGN PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION IN COAL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 May 85 p 2

[Text]

India and France signed a protocol in Delhi on Tuesday for strengthening their cooperation in the coal industry, reports UNI.

The protocol was the outcome of a two-day meeting of the Indo-French working group on coal which went into details identifying areas for cooperation between the two countries in this sector.

Mr Pierre-Francois Couture, director (Gas, Electricity and Coal) of France and Mr S B Lal, Secretary, department of coal, Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal initialled the protocol on behalf of their governments.

Besides accelerating the pace of implementation of some existing projects, the Indian side has proposed new areas of cooperation. These include the Kottadih underground project in the Raniganj coalfield and projects for fire control in Amlabad underground project and the Jhingurdah opencast project in Singrauli, an official release said.

The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CEMPDIL) has prepared a project report for Kottadih project based on the experience gained earlier on the French technology and submitted it to the Government for approval. Charbonnages De France (CDF) have been requested to examine this report, depute their experts to visit the mine and convey their advice on applying the proposed technology.

As France is already participating in the de-gassification project at Amlabad, it has been proposed that they take up a study to deal with the underground fires at Amlabad. The Indian side has also prepared a project for the control of opencast fires in Jhingurdah project.

Besides Ananta, French assistance is being utilised for development of coal projects at Nandira, Kendwadiah, Chora, East Katras, Parasea, Moira, Amlabad and Tirapledo of Coal India Limited and Godavari Khani No. 10 incline of the Singareni Collieries Company.

CSO: 4600/1684

INDIA

FINANCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRG

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 29 May 85 Supplement p 1

[Text]

New Delhi, May 28 (PTI): India and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) signed an agreement for financial cooperation for 1985-86 amounting to DM 360 million (Rs 144 crores), here today.

Finance secretary Mr S. Venkataramanan and the FRG ambassador in India, Mr G Schodel signed on behalf of their respective governments.

The financial assistance is in the form of a concessional loan at 0.75 per cent rate of interest repayable over 50 years including a moratorium of 10 years.

This will be utilised for import of capital goods, loans to financial institutions (ICICI, IFCI) and commodity aid.

The assistance would also help finance projects such as the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagadishpur pipeline, Farakka II power project, extension of Telco automotive works breakdown cranes for Indian railways, gas turbine for Uran power plant, expansion of Yerraguntla cement works, rural water supply in MP and programmes in the energy sector. Additionally, DM 175 million (Rs 70 crores) of commercial credit will be made available for

projects qualifying for mixed financing in the ratio of 50 per cent soft credit, 50 per cent commercial credit.

The Federal Republic of Germany is one of the leading members of the Aid India Consortium that extends bilateral credits to India. Between 1958 and 1984-85 it had pledged about DM 9,800 million (approximately Rs 4,000 crores). This year's additional amount will take the total beyond the DM 10,000 mark, says an official release.

In addition to the soft loan of DM 360 million and commercial credit of DM 175 million, the FRG has also made available DM 30 million as an outright grant for technical assistance.

Among the prominent symbols of Indo-FRG cooperation are the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, the Korba, Ramagundam and Singrauli super thermal power projects, the oceanographic research vessel, Sagar Kanya and the Hudco housing schemes for the weaker sections of society.

The Germans have also agreed to utilise the services of Indian consultants for their bilateral development programmes in other developing countries.

CSO: 4600/1682

INDIA

EDITORIALS DISCUSS FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORISTS

Need for Improved Intelligence

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 15 May 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

The Federal Bureau of Investigation of the US can justifiably take pride in having foiled a plot hatched by a group of expatriate Sikhs to assassinate Mr Bhajan Lal, who was recently in that country, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who is scheduled to make a visit next month, and also to "cause the revolutionary overthrow" of the Indian government. Interestingly, the conspirators were given away by the very man they had chosen to train them in the use of explosives and other subversive techniques. The American was an FBI under-cover agent who had won the confidence of the Sikhs. Mr Bhajan Lal is safely back in Haryana, Mr Gandhi can now proceed to Washington DC secure in the knowledge that at least one bunch of mad men after his life has been neutralised, and Indian security agencies can now intensify their war against terrorism reinforced by the leads provided by their US counterparts. But the conspiracy is a measure of the threat that the nation faces from Sikh terrorists who are clearly operating on a global plane. Khalistan is most certainly a mad dream, but Khalistanis are very tangibly challenging the Indian state. And if that acerbic Khalistani in Britain, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, has tended to grab the spotlight by his reckless statements, Gurpratap Singh Birk and his associates have shown that the American Khalistanis believe in action rather than mere talk. Manifestly, their plot was sinister and had they been even marginally successful in their dark plans, incalculable damage could have been caused. Thanks to the misplaced munificence of certain wealthy Sikh settlers like the peach king, Deedar Singh Bains, American Khalistanis have vast funds at their disposal. The use of these funds, it now seems, is not limited to organising such essentially harmless but nonetheless mischievous tamashas as hearings in the US Congress.

An obvious question that follows is: are Sikh terrorists, operating in India and abroad, entirely privately sponsored? Are there no foreign powers deliberately and actively helping them in their unholy endeavours? The Union government, it would appear, has reasons to believe that there is at least one foreign power which is taking more than just an unhealthy interest in the activities of the terrorists. At the May 8 confabulations between

government and Opposition leaders, Mr Khushwant Singh drew the Prime Minister's attention to reliable reports reaching the nominated member of Parliament about Pakistani agents infiltrating the ranks of devotees in numerous Punjab gurdwaras. Prime Minister Gandhi and home minister Chavan reportedly informed him that the government was aware of this development. There has also been evidence of Sikh terrorists receiving training in and arms from Pakistan. The encouraging development is not that the government now "possesses information" about a foreign involvement, but that the Opposition heartily agrees that a foreign hand very definitely exists. Member after member in both Houses of Parliament on Monday rose to affirm their belief in the existence of a foreign conspiracy. As the Prime Minister has said, neither too much nor too little need be made of this. But if the US revelations have showed up anything then it is that our own intelligence agencies need to do a lot better.

Plotting of Sikh Emigres

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 May 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE uncovering of a plot by some expatriate Sikhs to murder Mr Rajiv Gandhi during his forthcoming visit to the USA may not mark the end of the conspiracy against the Government. Some weeks ago there were disturbing reports about Paris-based Sikh terrorists planning a murderous attack on the Prime Minister, and it is not yet clear if the plot has been entirely snashed. But Mr Gandhi has rightly decided to go ahead with his trip to some Western countries next month: the terrorists will have succeeded in their aim if they are seen to have induced fear at the highest levels of authority. Mrs Gandhi often warned of a threat to India from abroad, although she seemed to exaggerate it for political reasons. Now this appears to be a grim reality, even though the source of danger is not what is usually implied by a "foreign hand". The Prime Minister hinted in the Lok Sabha on Monday that Sikh terrorists had logistic support from a foreign country, but the Government remains somewhat reluctant to divulge all that it apparently knows. Recent trends in extremist activity and Akali politics indicate that a group of expatriate

Sikhs are providing direct encouragement to violence in India. It is impossible for New Delhi to prevent subversive elements abroad from engaging in such activity; attention, therefore needs to be focussed on their associates or fellow workers in India.

Last weekend's bomb outrages in the northern States confirm that terrorists have added indiscriminate murder to their strategy of selective killing in a bid to create panic and communal discord. To say that their aim was to disrupt possible negotiations between the Government and the Akalis is an understatement; they are now playing for far higher, and more sinister, stakes. Both the security forces and the various intelligence agencies of the Government have much to answer for. Their failure to anticipate, coupled with the grotesque novelty of the terrorists' method, has led to a widespread feeling of insecurity all over the country. The terrorists must have regrouped with an effective chain of command and communication. Unless the network is smashed soon, they are bound to strike again; and they are unlikely to repeat their methods. Instead of concentrating on improving

the intelligence-gathering system, which alone can neutralize possible surprise, the Government seems more concerned with tightening anti-terrorist legislation. In combating terrorism in Punjab, any inadequacy in the laws has hardly been an impediment: few terrorists have so far been actually brought to trial; fewer have been freed on the courts' orders.

Meanwhile, the disarray caused in the Akali Dal suggests that the bomb attacks may have succeeded in their political objective. Sant Longowal and Mr Prakash Singh Badal seem to have decided that abdication is the better part of valour. Their resignations might have been interpreted as being prompted by genuine moral outrage had their past pronouncements not shown their abject readiness to succumb to the extremist rhetoric of hate. The SGPC's

decision to go ahead with the demolition of the Akal Takht provides further evidence of the militants' intransigence. If Sant Longowal was truly concerned for Hindu-Sikh amity, he could have used this opportunity to dissociate himself unequivocally from the extremists. Many Sikhs have been deeply shocked by the bomb attacks and would probably have rallied behind an appeal for peace. Instead, Sant Longowal has allowed the Akali Dal to be virtually taken over by a group of hard-core extremists who are bound to use their new-found legitimacy to launch an overtly secessionist and disruptive campaign. It remains to be seen if the Sant will change his mind after the meeting of Akali district leaders on May 22, but it already seems too late to halt the Akali Dal's inexorable slide into becoming an organization of outlaws.

Timing of FBI Action Questioned

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 May 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The sensational disclosure that a group of terrorists living in the US had hatched a plot to assassinate Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and bomb strategic places, has naturally evoked widespread indignation in the country. It is no secret that a large number of pro-Khalistani extremist groups, actively engaged in anti-India activities in the US for the last few years, have been receiving financial, political and other support from various agencies in that country. That one of these groups should approach an officer of one of the US intelligence agencies for training facilities and supply of arms and ammunition for carrying out their nefarious designs of murder and sabotage is, to say the least, incredibly shocking. In view of the past cases of Khalistani secessionists, including hijackers and killers, making a bee-line to the US, the latest episode reveals the measure of confidence these anti-India criminals feel about getting sufficient support there. The White Paper issued by the Government on the Punjab situation noted the role of these agencies in encouraging secessionist elements. US Ambassador in India Harry Barnes went to the extent of equating Khalistan with the Puerto Rico movement. India's attempts to im-

press upon Washington the need to curb effectively the growing activities of Khalistani extremists evoked disappointing response. The US administration merely hedged the issue by verbal equivocation and total inaction. The penetration of this particular group of terrorists by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and legal proceedings against them has been appreciated by New Delhi.

While all Indians are greatly relieved that the FBI has foiled this dastardly plot, the timing of the action cannot but give rise to the impression that it could be part of the US effort to lessen the widespread resentment amongst the Indian people against overt and covert support the American establishment has been extending to Khalistani secessionists and other anti-India elements operating from the US. The widely-advertised disclosure has come soon after carefully planned terrorist actions in the Capital and the neighbouring States and Parliament's condemnation of the foreign hand behind these dastardly crimes. Whatever the motivation, by foiling the deplorable conspiracy, the FBI has strengthened the belief that US Administration can, if it so wishes, put a stop to sinister anti-Indian activities. That this has not been done so far lends itself to the interpretation that Washington encouraged and acquiesced in the mischief in the hope of deriving some political mileage. It is possible that a contrary impression is now sought to be created for obvious reasons.

Finance Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh assured the Rajya Sabha that the Government would take the fullest measure to ensure the safety and security of the Prime Minister. If our people's anxiety in this regard is not fully allayed even after Mr V P Singh's assurance and FBI action, the reason can easily be traced to the fact that in the US so many agencies, official and clandestine, operate, and often one does not know what the other is plotting. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that while one of these agencies was engaged in aiding the terrorists, the other acted to apprehend them to subserve the political objective of the moment. However, as a member of Parliament pointed out, the Prime Minister of our country cannot allow himself to be immobilised because of terrorist actions. While this is a valid argument, it is not sufficient to fully allay the people's anxiety and concern about Prime Minister's personal security within and outside the country.

INDIA

CPI LEADERS QUESTION VALIDITY OF ANTITERRORIST BILL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 May 85 p 5

[Text]

Prominent CPI leaders on Wednesday questioned the validity of the recently formulated Anti-Terrorist Act and emphasised that indiscriminate police and Army action will only lead to further escalation of terrorism.

"For the Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police Force, every turbaned youth is a terrorist", CPI general secretary C Rajeswara Rao said at a public meeting in the Capital.

While innocent and young Sikhs are being labelled as terrorists in Punjab and elsewhere under the various acts, the real terrorists are roaming free, Mr Rao said, adding that the charges against all those arrested should be legally proved.

CPI leader Indrajit Gupta also expressed concern at the arrest of many "innocent persons" in the villages of Punjab. This will escalate the division between the two communities which have traditionally had a close and amicable relationship, he said.

Mr Rao called upon the nation and party members to remain watchful against disruptive elements, work for national unity and to pressurise the Government to take up urgent steps towards the solution of the Punjab problem and not resort to delaying tactics.

It is a welcome sign that Mr H S Longowal and other leaders have stood up against the extremist lobby though the fight within the Akali Dal factions will continue, Mr Rao said. He also welcomed Mr Longowal's assurance that the proposed 'genocide week' will be peaceful but warned that terrorists might once again try to capitalise on the situation and resort to violence. He urged partymen to form campaign committees to ward off such forces who are bent upon creating communal violence and disorder.

CSO: 5650/0188

INDIA

SOVIET-BUILT SHIP IN WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND EXERCISE

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 29 May 85 p 5

[Text]

Bombay, May 28: Deafening gunfire rent the air 50 miles off the Bombay coast when the western naval command began its naval exercises here on Friday. The Indian Navy was demonstrating its muscle with a display of close-range anti-aircraft fire.

Six destroyers—the INS Himgiri, Taragiri, Trishul, Godavari, Rajput and Ranjit—and the Bijaydurg and Sindhudurg, forming a missile vessel squad, manoeuvred themselves into battle readiness. Six helicopters and submarines formed a power flank.

Kamov twin-rotor helicopters with double-propellers rose in union from two ships and moved into an air display with two Chetak and two Sea King helicopters.

The helicopters' importance to the Navy is displayed in submarine detection—destroying the unsuspecting sub with a bomb or warning the ship of its presence and location—and in search-and-rescue operations. If the offending submarine moves into troubled waters, the INS Ranjit ably decides its fate while

rocket missiles (euphemistically called "Articles" reach their target within seconds.

The INS Ranjit Godavari and Rajput moved together, 120 feet apart, to demonstrate replenishment operations at sea when supplies and sailors are sent through Jack stays. Newsmen also witnessed an impeccable synchronised display between the fleet of eight surface vessels, six of them with shipborne helicopters and one submarine each.

Since a gap in communication between officers and sailors could prove disastrous during war, naval personnel aboard are trained to eliminate the smallest imperfection, says the INS Ranjit Captain, Vishnu Bhagwat. Synchronisation thus enables the fleet to act like one giant body of vessels. "We owe our lives to perfect coordination," he said.

The Soviet-built INS Ranjit is equipped with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, electronic warfare gadgets, rocket launchers, an assortment of conventional weapons and Kamov helicopters.

CSO: 4600/1682

INDIA

SOVIETS TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF BAUXITE MINE

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 May 85 p 11

[Text]

MADRAS, May 27.

The Soviet Union has agreed to prepare a feasibility report for a bauxite mine of 2.3 million tonnes per annum capacity for export to the USSR.

The first report for a 6-8 lakh tonnes a year alumina plant based on the east coast bauxite was prepared by the Soviets and submitted to Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) in 1980. Both BALCO and MECON (India) were associated in the preparation of the feasibility report. The plant was to be located at Krishnadevipeta in Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh. But no investment decision could be taken pending the finalisation of financing arrangements and tying up export outlet for the alumina since the Soviet Union agreed to buy only three lakhs tonnes.

In July 1982, the Soviet side submitted a report for an export-oriented bauxite mine of 2.3 million tonnes to be expanded to four million tonnes and the setting up of an alumina plant later. In subsequent discussions, the Soviet of-

ficials agreed to consider financing a major part of the local costs of the mine only and extending credit for equipment and services for the alumina plant-mine expansion. This would mean that very large rupee resources would have to be found for the alumina plant and mine expansion.

Cost estimates for the mining complex of 2.3 million tonnes annual capacity (including the rail link and port facilities at Visakhapatnam) in June 1984 were put around Rs. 247 crores. The matter was discussed at the sixth meeting of the working group on non-ferrous metallurgy of the Indo-Soviet Commission in Moscow in March this year.

An Indian team held discussions with the Soviet experts in Moscow last month on the financial and economic aspects of the mining complex. The question was discussed subsequently during the ninth session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission in Moscow when it was agreed that the Soviet experts would commission a feasibility report.

CSO: 4600/1681

19 July 1985

INDIA

DELHI REPORTED RETHINKING POLICY ON NEIGHBOR RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 May 85 p 2

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

A MAJOR event next week, in the field of neighbourhood diplomacy, will be the ministerial meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) in Thimpu, capital of Bhutan. The idea was first mooted in 1980 in an embryonic form by the former President of Bangladesh, the late General Zia-ur-Rahman. After some initial hesitation, the other South Asian countries—India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives—responded with varying degrees of reservations.

The Foreign Secretaries of the seven countries held a series of preparatory meetings in Colombo, Kathmandu, Islamabad and Dhaka before they met in Delhi to finalise the arrangements for the first Foreign Ministers' conference in 1983. It was followed by another Ministerial meeting in Male last year and the seven Foreign Ministers are now gathering in Thimpu to prepare the ground for the first summit meeting in Dhaka at the end of this year.

The Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries set up by the Foreign Ministers at their first meeting in Delhi in 1983 has been meeting periodically to chart out the area of regional cooperation, work out the institutional arrangements and organise finances for various programmes.

The Foreign Ministers have been working on the draft declaration to be adopted by the heads of government at their first summit conference. At the meeting in Thimpu, the draft declaration has to be given a final shape by resolving the remaining differences over the concept and scope of this regional cooperation as well as the general content and thrust of the South Asian seven's collective appeal to the big powers for a more equitable international economic dispensation.

The SARC has proved to be a useful meeting ground for discussing multilateral issues of regional cooperation as well as bilateral problems between member-States without the appearance of formal exchanges that constrain them to take up more rigid postures. The Indian delegations to these SARC meetings have been engaging in informal talks with their counterparts from countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister and the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan will be staying overnight in Delhi on their way to Bhutan and having informal contacts with their Indian hosts. But strangely enough the Sri Lankan delegation is reported to be planning to travel via Bangkok to Calcutta to take the connecting flight to Thimpu, to avoid transiting Delhi. It was agreed during the visit of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, to Colombo in March that the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, would have follow-up discussions on the Tamil problem, during his visit to Delhi in April to attend the non-aligned conference. He cancelled the visit at the last moment with the plea that he could not leave Sri Lanka in the midst of the communal clashes between Tamils and Muslims.

After the first flush of enthusiasm over the new diplomatic drive for an all-out effort to improve relations with neighbouring countries, there are now signs of some rethinking at the higher levels in Delhi over the wisdom of bending backwards to placate them in the absence of reciprocal interest in better relations. This has led to the sobering realisation that India is not the only one with difficult neighbours, that almost all countries, both big and small,

have problems of one kind or the other with adjoining nations. It is open to doubt, so the new argument runs, whether an unfriendly country could be cultivated and relied upon in the long run by merely making concessions, since it is not always possible or desirable to woo an unresponsive neighbour beyond a point.

The present Government, like all others in their time is thus finding itself caught up on the horns of the classic dilemma whether a more enduring impact can be made by courting a petulant neighbour from a position of strength or attempting to appease it with generous gestures that are liable to be misconstrued as signs of weakness and, therefore, open to further pressures for extracting more concessions.

The Janata Government realised to its great dismay that its good neighbourly diplomacy did not yield the desired results, because it had no hard core to it as a well conceived policy capable of enhancing the country's prestige and influence in the region. It was at best only a haphazard attempt to appear to be much more generous than the previous Congress Government in its dealings with neighbouring nations.

As one who was an adept in the art of realpolitik, Indira Gandhi lost no time in reverting to her no-nonsense approach on her return to power in 1980. She reacted strongly to unfriendly acts by any neighbouring country even at the risk of increased tensions, since in her view an appearance of vacillation in the face of provocation would be highly detrimental to India's interests. It was in this context that she adopted a tougher stand towards Sri Lanka over the Tamil question, and called off the no-war talks with Pakistan as an expression of her strong displeasure over its sneaking support to Sikh extremists. She was equally firm in her dealings with Nepal which tended to take its special relationship with India for granted while pressing for more concessions.

The new Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has consciously opted to steer a middle course and given high priority to improvement of relations with neighbouring countries to ensure greater stability in the region. The Foreign Secretary was sent to Colombo, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu and Dhaka to assure all concerned that India had no intention of interfering in their internal affairs or dominating them. The response of Pakistan has been quite encouraging whatever its long-term power pursuits and political objectives, but unfortunately Sri Lanka has disappointed India by mistaking its manifestations of friendship for an uncerebrant abandonment of the Tamil cause.

This total misjudgment of the new mood in Delhi by Sri Lanka has further complicated the Tamil problem. The Jayewardene Government is apparently proceeding on the assumption that the Indian policy has changed and that it can afford to deal sternly with the Tamil minority under the guise of curbing terrorism without any fear of Indian intervention. The assurance

given to Mr. Bhandari that, if the insurgency is ended, an all-out effort would be made to find a widely acceptable political solution to the island's ethnic problem has turned out to be no more than a clever ploy to gain time for strengthening the Sri Lankan military position and fighting the Eelam Tigers to the bitter end in the name of putting down terrorism.

The relationship with Sri Lanka has become a test case for India's new neighbourhood diplomacy since its whole validity would be lost if Mr. Jayewardene and his colleagues misinterpret it as a change in policy over the Tamil question. If they are not forewarned in good time that there is a limit to India's tolerance, the hardliners in Sri Lanka might step up their military operations on the assumption that the new Government in Delhi would not do anything other than making some appropriate noises to voice its indignation.

There is no parallel between the Pakistani and Sri Lankan situations in the sense that similar compulsions exist in both cases obliging India to adopt comparable attitudes. Indo-Pak relations continue to be soured by a persisting crisis of confidence which is not confined to any single problem. The Kashmir issue remains a running sore, but after its humiliating defeat in two wars, Pakistan has reconciled itself to the reality that it cannot redeem its claim to the whole area through military action. The process of improvement of relations involves increased trade, more travel, wider cultural contacts and freer flow of information, but the absence of these exchanges would not necessarily lead to new strains.

It is, therefore, relatively easy in the case of Pakistan to establish a reasonably sound and mutually beneficial good neighbourly relationship by avoiding adversary roles and refraining from cross purposes. But there is a serious conflict of interest in dealing with Sri Lanka because of the Tamil problem. The fact that India continues to maintain that a lasting solution has to be found within the framework of a united Sri Lanka consistent with its sovereignty and territorial integrity has not made the task of settling the Tamil problem any easier because of the prevailing fears and suspicions in Colombo about India's intentions.

The relations with Nepal and Bhutan are of a different nature, since geopolitically they are a part of the Indian world and, therefore, much more dependent on it. The attempts of Nepal to play the China card to exert pressures on India have misfired because of its many handicaps as a landlocked kingdom. There are frequent frictions in Indo-Nepalese relations but no grave conflicts of interest. The King of Bhutan, on the other hand, has been handling his country's relationship with India with great tact and imagination, with the result that India has acquired a special interest in its political stability and orderly development.

The relationship with Bangladesh is much more complex, since communal, territorial, riparian and maritime factors are involved in it. These issues have to be tackled over a

period of time with great patience and perseverance. The fence issue got blown up into a confrontation because of the deep-rooted animosities and underlying tensions. An impoverished and over-populated, hopelessly divided and stagnant society like Bangladesh needs permanent enemies to deflect its frustrations. It revels in casting India in a villain's role to divert the attentions of the restive people from domestic political turmoils and economic privations.

The sheer bigness of India as a country of subcontinental dimensions with a vast population, which has made rapid strides in many spheres since Independence despite its faltering performance in several key areas, attracts the stereotype label of hegemonism. The country's neighbours never miss a chance to malign India as a regional power with big power ambitions and exaggerated notions of its self-im-

portance. It can use the SARC forum to let the neighbouring countries have the benefit of its expertise and experience in the economic sphere to restore the missing element of confidence and work step by step towards better political understanding. Instead of attempting to reverse the process and make a dent first at the psychological level by placating them.

The two strands of bilateralism and multilateralism have to be interwoven imaginatively to generate a feeling of regional inter-dependence. It can be done only in an atmosphere of certain shared values and basic commitments to principles of equality and mutuality, non-interference and co-existence. One cannot conjure unity and fraternity where none exists with melodramatic gestures of benevolence and solicitude.

CSO: 4600/1594

INDIA

HINDU ANALYST REPORTS ON GANDHI-JAYEWARDENE TALKS

Bhandari's Visit to Sri Lanka

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Excerpts]

NEW DELHI, May 31.

After the first round of their summit talks in Delhi on Sunday morning on the Tamils problem, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Sri Lanka President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene will go to Bangladesh to make an aerial survey of the cyclone devastated areas in that country in the true spirit of South Asian regional co-operation.

Summit purpose

The whole purpose of this summit meeting is to make an all-out effort to end violence, restore normal conditions and bring about an early resumption of negotiations between the Tamil leaders and the Sri Lankan Government. But in discussing what could be done to de-escalate the crisis that has led to a lot of bloodshed and loss of innocent lives, the two leaders will have to come to grips with the broad concepts of a lasting political settlement that can provide a permanent solution to the problem.

During his prolonged discussions in Colombo, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, assured Mr. Jayewardene and his colleagues that India had no intention of getting involved in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict, although it has offered its good offices in resolving it. The main effort to settle this problem has to be made by the Sri Lankan leaders themselves with India lending only a helping hand in bringing about a resumption of negotiations.

He also did his best to dispel the impression that there has been a change in India's policy, that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is less concerned about the fate of Tamils than his mother, that he would be prepared to exert all possible pressures on the Tamil militants to give up their insurgency and seek a peaceful settlement. He made it equally clear to the Sri Lankan leaders that there can be no lasting solution to the Tamil problem until they agree to a substantial measure of regional autonomy for the Northern and Eastern provinces within the framework of a united Sri Lankan State.

The Foreign Secretary tried to impress on

Mr. Jayewardene that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi wants to be genuinely helpful if Sri Lanka was really interested in availing itself of Indian assistance. It is for Sri Lanka to decide what kind of role it would like India to play in resolving the ethnic tangle, since Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has no desire at all of imposing his good offices even with the best of intentions.

These new nuances in the articulation of Indian policy have quite understandably led to some misgivings among the Sri Lankan Tamils that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Government is not emotionally committed to the same extent in upholding their cause in the face of Mr. Jayewardene's bid to seek a military solution. So it has become necessary to reassure them that India is not ignoring their interests, much less abandoning their cause, in attempting to maintain a subtle distinction between its overall approach to the totality of its relationship with Sri Lanka and their understandable anxiety to secure an equitable ethnic settlement with Indian assistance.

The Indian view is that it would not be possible to arrive at a lasting settlement unless Mr. Jayewardene is prepared to take a fresh look at the Tamil problem and give up the idea of district councils serving as basic units for devolution. In other words, a settlement can be brought about only by conceding regional autonomy to the Tamil community to give them their due share of power to enable them to live with honour and security as part of the Sri Lankan State.

The Prime Minister is not expected to put across any specific proposals during his talks with Mr. Jayewardene, but the main element of what could constitute the basis for a political settlement is bound to figure during these discussions. The immediate objective is to end the bloodshed and bring about a resumption of talks, but there has to be some understanding about the concept and scope of what could be deemed to be a fair settlement before India can urge the Tamil militants to give up their insurgency and strive for a peaceful solution.

2 Jun Talks, Bangladesh Visit

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 2.

The Indo-Sri Lanka summit talks were held today at three levels—between the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, the Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the Sri Lankan Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, and senior officials of the two countries led by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, and the Sri Lankan Cabinet Secretary, Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe, to determine how best the two countries could work together to solve the Tamils problem.

But after these discussions lasting several hours there was no indication at all that the two sides have been able to evolve an agreed approach, or at least narrow down their differing ideas on what could be done to end the tragic bloodshed and create the right condition for an early resumption of negotiations.

The two Heads of government met this morning for about an hour without any aides, before they were joined by Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Athulathmudali during the rest of the discussion that continued for another hour, till Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Jayewardene left for the airport to fly together to Bangladesh to see the terrible cyclone devastation there. The senior officials of the two countries met separately, more or less to discuss the same issues.

But at his first meeting with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Sri Lankan President did not spell out in any precise manner how he proposed to resolve the ethnic conflict other than stressing that India and Sri Lanka should cooperate fully in their own common interest in fighting terrorism which posed the greatest threat to their democratic systems. It is not known whether Mr. Jayewardene said anything more during the long flight to Bangladesh and back to Delhi, other than restating what he had already told Mr. Bhandari in Colombo last week, on how far he is prepared to go in finding a federal solution to the Tamils problem.

Superficial view

Meanwhile, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Athulathmudali met separately for 90 minutes at the Defence Ministry this afternoon for a more detailed discussion on how to bring about an early end to the continued violence in the Northern and Eastern Provinces as an essential prelude to any resumption of negotiations. The Sri Lankan Minister for National Security tended to take a rather superficial view of the complex ethnic tangle by maintaining that India could persuade or pressure the Tamil militants to give up terrorism and seek a negotiated settlement.

What Mr. Jayewardene seemed to imply during his talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi this morning was stated more explicitly by Mr. Athulathmudali during his meeting with Mr. Narasimha

Rao in the afternoon. They wanted India to cooperate in curbing terrorism in Sri Lanka by denying sanctuary to the "Tamil tigers" in Tamil Nadu and preventing them from ferrying men and materials across the Palk Strait.

In other words, they were urging this country, under the guise of seeking its cooperation in controlling terrorism, at least to restrain the Tamil militants, if it was not prepared to detain or deport them, besides blocking the Palk Strait to prevent their clandestine movements. They seemed to imply that India was in a position to help Sri Lanka, if it wanted to, in controlling the insurgency and compelling the "Tamil Tigers" to seek a political settlement within the framework of a single Sri Lankan State after giving up their demand for separation.

Final round today

The two leaders, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Jayewardene, returned to Delhi at 9-30 p.m. after their long flight to Bangladesh and back which enabled them to be together for more than five hours, giving them enough opportunity for a leisurely conversation. The talks are due to conclude tomorrow morning with a final round of discussions lasting another two or three hours, followed by a lunch given by the President, Mr. Zail Singh, before Mr. Jayewardene's departure for Colombo in the afternoon.

After his 90-minute meeting with Mr. Athulathmudali and other senior members of the Sri Lankan delegation, Mr. Narasimha Rao conferred with officials of External Affairs and Home Ministries for an internal discussions on some of the points raised by Mr. Jayewardene and his National Security Minister during their talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and himself both this morning and later in the afternoon. The purpose of these internal discussion was to keep the Prime Minister informed of the factual position, so that he could speak with fuller knowledge on these issues at tomorrow's concluding session.

The Sri Lankan Government which at one stage was insisting that the "Tamil Tigers" must give up terrorism and lay down arms to qualify for an amnesty followed by a suspension of military operations is now prepared to countenance simultaneous action by both sides. It is ready to discuss the timing of the two steps together for ending the orgy of violence, if India could use its influence with the Tamil militants to give up their terrorism.

Procedures important

A good part of today's discussions seems to have been devoted to the creation of conditions for resumption of negotiations rather than the contents of a settlement. The Sri Lankan President and his Minister of National Security gave the impression that procedures for restoration of normality were as important

for them as the substantial aspects of a political settlement.

The result was that the two sides hardly came to grips at today's discussions with the concept or degree of regional autonomy that could lead to a lasting solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict. It was not known until late tonight whether any new ground was broken by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Jayewardene during their prolonged talks on the aircraft. And if they did, it would be reflected tomorrow by the outcome of their concluding session.

Press Statement Discussed

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 3.

The Governments of India and Sri Lanka have agreed to take suitable steps in their respective spheres to bring about an early end to the orgy of violence in the island and pave the way for a negotiated settlement of the ethnic problem.

A joint press statement issued today at the end of the visit of the Sri Lanka President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, said that "both sides agreed that immediate steps should be taken to defuse the situation and create a proper climate for progress towards a political settlement."

The statement did not go into any further details of the understanding reached other than stressing that India and Sri Lanka had further agreed that "all forms of violence should abate and finally cease." It indicated that the two Governments would do whatever was possible to first bring down the level of violence by persuading the Tamil militants to desist from further acts of terrorism followed by a cessation of savage reprisals by the Sri Lankan armed forces.

Open question

This would enable the two Governments to work together more closely for creating a normal atmosphere in which an amnesty could be declared before resumption of negotiations for finding a lasting political settlement. But it is still an open question how the Tamil Tigers operating in different groups could be persuaded to give up their insurgency and lay down arms, without some advance commitment over the nature and extent of autonomy that would be granted to the Northern and Eastern provinces to enable the Tamil community to live with honour and security as part of a united Sri Lankan State.

The Sri Lankan President continued to harp on his earlier offer of so-called participatory democracy from the lowest administrative units to the district and provincial councils and an upper chamber of Parliament within the framework of the present Constitution. He was told in no uncertain terms that this symbolic devolution without any substantial autonomy for the Tamil majority areas would be totally unacceptable to them.

Both Mr. Jayewardene and his Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, pressed hard for some sort of private assurance from the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, that the non-existent training camps in Tamil Nadu would be closed down followed by strong steps to prevent the Tamil Tigers from ferrying men and materials across the Palk Strait to intensify their insurgency against a neighbouring non-aligned nation. The very plea for this help in first containing and then crushing terrorism sought indirectly to identify India with the insurgency, as though this violent campaign was being sustained with Indian assistance and could be ended only with its cooperation.

What had been finally agreed upon is that both India and Sri Lanka would do whatever was possible to bring about a de-escalation of the crisis and defuse the explosive situation. The understanding is based on the principle of simultaneity for the Tamil Tigers to desist from further acts of terrorism and the Sri Lankan army to suspend its combating operations to create the right atmosphere for arranging an amnesty at an appropriate moment.

The whole emphasis during these discussions was on de-escalation and defusion of the crisis leading towards a cessation of all carnage, not on a dramatic ceasefire between the Tamil militants and the Sri Lankan armed forces. This approach is quite implicit in the wording of the joint statement issued this afternoon.

But a major hurdle still to an early end to violence in Sri Lanka is Mr. Jayewardene's inability or reluctance to commit himself more explicitly on the question of regional autonomy for the Northern and Eastern provinces. He continues to adhere rigidly to his earlier offer of limited devolution through district or provincial councils and second chamber of Parliament with the promise of only some cosmetic changes to give the appearance of increased autonomy for the two provinces.

The two heads of Government who had extensive discussions yesterday on all aspects of this ethnic conflict did not meet this morning, but let their two delegations led by Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Athulathmudali sort out the differing approaches to both de-escalation and devolution. The limited understanding

reached by the two sides to strive separately rather than jointly to end the violence, with India urging the Tamil militants to desist from further acts of terrorism and Sri Lanka slowing down its military operations, seemed to satisfy Mr. Jayewardene who did not seem to be too unhappy when he left Delhi for Colombo this afternoon.

To remain in 'close touch'

The joint statement approved by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Jayewardene after a brief meeting before the Sri Lankan President's departure said that they had decided to remain in "close touch" with each other presumably through special envoys and exchange of personal com-

munications. Mr. Jayewardene sounded quite hopeful of resolving this ethnic tangle with India's cooperation, in a brief chat with the press at the airport.

The Sri Lankan President hinted that he would be saying something more on the subject on his return to Colombo tonight. So he confined his observations in Delhi to a reiteration of his earlier offer of amnesty if the Tamil insurgents laid down their arms.

The President, Mr. Zail Singh, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and others were at the airport to see off Mr. Jayewardene.

Reuters reports from Colombo: Mr. Jayewardene returned home tonight from New Delhi after talks with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

Records To Be Kept

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jun 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 4.

The Governments of India and Sri Lanka are trying to reduce to writing the broad measure of understanding arrived at during the oral discussions at different levels during the visit of the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, on how best the two countries could work together to resolve the Tamil problem.

The intention is to maintain a proper record of what had been agreed upon through an exchange of letters or in any other appropriate form, so that there is no misunderstanding later on what had been promised by both sides.

The Sri Lanka President's Foreign Affairs Adviser, Mr. Esmond Wikramasinghe, has stayed on in Delhi for a day longer after Mr. Jayewardene left for Colombo yesterday to finalise the record of conclusions reached during the summit discussions. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, had a meeting with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Mr. Bernard Tilekaratne, today for this purpose although he was hard pressed for time on the eve of the Prime Minister's departure tomorrow morning on his two-week long foreign trip to Cairo, Paris, Algiers and Washington.

Useful pattern: But the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, himself spoke at length about the Indian approach to the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka at a press conference with American journalists today before his visit to the United States. He said that India was totally opposed to the idea of a separate Eelam, and that in his view the maximum autonomy available to the States under the Indian Constitution could serve as a useful pattern for meeting the demands of the Tamil people.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said India had restricted the activities of the Tamil militants very substantially and put a lot of pressure on them to desist from violence. The Indian authorities had confiscated about \$4 millions worth of arms from them. He stressed at the same time that Indian laws did not empower the Government to restrict them from talking in favour of a separate Eelam, nor restrain the press from publishing their statements.

The Prime Minister also said that India had no intention at all of intervening militarily in Sri Lanka support of the Tamil in cause. It would, however, be prepared to render any help that might be sought by the democratically elected Government of Sri Lanka as was done on a previous occasion.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi referred to the final proposals presented by Mr. Jayewardene to the All-Party Conference before its dissolution. But he did not disclose whether the Sri Lankan President came to Delhi with any new ideas that went farther than the limited devolution offered by him under the district and provincial councils scheme.

Three aspects: The Prime Minister did not go into any further details of what had been discussed during the extensive talks with Mr. Jayewardene and his colleagues, but information available from other sources indicated that they concentrated on three main aspects relating to Indo-Sri Lankan bilateral relations, the need for cooperation in curbing all forms of violence and finally a shared desire to find a lasting political solution to the Tamil problem within the framework of a united Sri Lankan

The two leaders agreed that the traditionally cordial and mutually beneficial relations between India and Sri Lanka, strained by the ethnic crisis in the island, should be strengthened in the interests of peace and stability

A more important outcome of the summit was the understanding reached to take immediate steps to defuse the ethnic crisis by curbing violence and creating proper conditions for resumption of negotiations. The Sri Lankan President urged Mr. Rajiv Gandhi not only to restrict the activities of the Tamil militants but also make an appeal to them to lay down arms, so that he could offer them an amnesty and invite them to take part in the negotiations

Grey area of concepts: The attempts to put in writing the points of understanding emerging from these discussions relate primarily to the degree of autonomy that Mr. Jayewardene is prepared to concede the Northern and Eastern provinces. There is a grey area of concepts

that are open to differing interpretations in defining the scope of the proposed autonomy for the two provinces.

It is to pin down Mr. Jayewardene more precisely to what he has agreed in terms of broad principles that the idea was mooted for maintaining a proper record of the outcome of the summit discussions. And one can only hope that this would not meet with the same fate as Annexure "C" that incorporated the earlier understanding reached on the extent of devolution.

Gandhi, Jayewardene Approach Compared

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jun 85 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

THERE is more than a generation gap between the 40-year old Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the septuagenarian President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Julius Jayewardene, whether it is in their personal temperaments, political attitudes or general outlook on life. As a product of the post-Independence era, the young Mr. Gandhi does not suffer from any hang-over of the past, while the 78-year-old Mr. Jayewardene tends to exude superiority airs by revelling in his Victorian values. And yet the two have been able to hit it off reasonably well because of their shared compulsions to extricate themselves from the bitter discord over the ethnic issue that has soured Indo-Sri Lankan relations.

The technological vision of the Prime Minister who is a product of the new electronic age contrasts sharply with the conservative disposition of the Sri Lankan President. The young Rajiv is impatient for a change in what is essentially a change-resistant Indian society to catch up with the lost opportunities, so that his country could enter the 21st century with an extra margin of confidence. The old Mr. Jayewardene, on the other hand, is more traditional in his responses to the dynamics of changing times, because he has grown up in a different social milieu that looked upon status quo as the best form of stability in times of rapid transformation.

Celestial import

It was quite a fascinating experience to watch the two from a ringside seat, as it were, as they went through the ordeals of their summit meeting determined to find some way out of the tragic ethnic tangle that had brought so much suffering to innocent people. A deeply religious man, Mr. Jayewardene saw some special celestial significance in the choice of June 2, a full moon day, for the conclave in Delhi, a day that is holy to both Buddhists and Hindus in Sri Lanka, for exploring the possibilities of a peaceful settlement of the Tamil problem.

After his return to Colombo, the Sri Lankan President said in his address to the parliamentary group of his party that "it was on a full moon day exactly 2,232 years ago that the Arahata Mahinda, son of the head of State of

India, Emperor Asoka, on the Mahintale Hill, preached to the head of State of Sri Lanka, King Devanampiyatissa, and converted him to accept the Buddha Dharma." He drew a close contemporary parallel to this historic event, saying that on a similar full moon day in 1985, coinciding with the Buddhist year 2529, he had met the Prime Minister of India in Delhi, in his capacity as President of Sri Lanka, to play the reverse role of repeating the "message of peace, Maitriya and non-violence which was preached at Mahintale."

In his self-ordained role as a Buddhist devotee who believed in compassion, the shrewd old Mr. Jayewardene tried to practise the art of modern statecraft by sermonising to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi on the virtues of non-interference in dealing with Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict. He appealed to his countrymen to remain patient while he took the necessary steps, based on his talks in Delhi, to "achieve peace in our country and in our lifetime, and stop the killing of innocent men and women."

It seemed from the wording of this appeal, especially the reference to his efforts to restore peace in "our lifetime," that he was not thinking of any dramatic initiative to settle the Tamil problem, other than a commitment to work assiduously in a true Buddhist spirit, for ethnic reconciliation.

A more mundane politician, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi did not resort to any metaphysical sermon to impress on Mr. Jayewardene the need for some urgent action to end the senseless carnage and open the way for a negotiated settlement. He managed to get his message across in his own soft-spoken manner that there can be no military solution to the Tamil problem, that the sooner he realised this the better it would be for finding a political settlement and that the longer he delayed it the more difficult it was going to be to resolve this tragic tangle that had already taken a heavy toll of innocent lives. He offered his cooperation in urging all concerned to the path of violence and strive for a negotiated settlement, if Mr. Jayewardene was prepared to tackle this problem earnestly by meeting the legitimate demands of the Tamil community for an effective share of power within the framework of a united Sri Lankan State.

Recurring frictions

It was a summit of an entirely different type between the young leader of a very large country and an old President of a very small neighbouring nation, united by very close historical links but divided by new political animosities that have strained their relations. The young leader spoke with disarming candour like an elder statesman about the grave perils of prolonging the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka in the prevailing atmosphere of inflamed passions. The older Mr. Jayewardene, on the other hand, invoked the name of Gautama Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi to drive home his point that India could not condone violence and pleaded that it should come forward and cooperate fully in curbing terrorism directed against a small neighbouring nation, before any other step could be taken to settle the Tamil problem.

The current effort to resolve the ethnic tangle is also directed at removing the recurring frictions in Indo-Sri Lankan relations. Though the two belong to the non-aligned movement, they have been differing sharply over many regional as well as international issues. Though in 1971 the then Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, had to seek Indian help in containing the threat of a leftist coup to topple her Government, she did not hesitate to grant landing rights to Pakistan for ferrying troops and arms to Dhaka during the Bangladesh conflict.

The present Sri Lankan Government headed by Mr. Jayewardene has taken a pro-Western stance over Afghanistan and Kampuchea, besides equating the Soviet Union with the U.S. In condemning the growing great power rivalries in the Indian Ocean, while India has been somewhat equivocal over such issues which amounts to giving the benefit of doubt to the Soviet Union. At the U.N. too, the two countries have been voting differently on many occasions leading to avoidable frictions. The recent rumour over the statement of the Minister of State, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, about the alleged incitement of Muslims against Tamils provoked Sri Lanka to threaten a boycott of the ministerial meeting of South Asian Regional Cooperation.

But whatever else is done to avoid such frictions, there can be no real improvement in Indo-Sri Lankan relations until a satisfactory solution is found to the Tamil problem. The cooperation sought by Mr. Jayewardene for ending terrorism has to be matched by a lasting political settlement to enable the oppressed and persecuted Tamils to live with honour and dignity as part of a single Sri Lankan nation. The three and a half million Tamils cannot develop this sense of identity without the grant of regional autonomy in one form or the other to the Northern and Eastern provinces.

The Sri Lankan President did not respond to an earlier invitation by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for a summit meeting in Bangalore, since he was still toying with the idea of a military solution. But after the sharp escalation of violence, he realised that there was no alternative to a negotiated settlement and that India alone could help to bring about a widely acceptable solution. He sought a meeting with the Prime Minister, preferably in some southern town like Trivan-

drum, before Mr. Gandhi left for Washington in the hope that the very fact of a joint appeal or statement by them calling for an end to violence would have a salutary effect on the Tamil Tigers who were intensifying their insurgency despite the mounting military pressures against them.

But in seeking this summit meeting, Mr. Jayewardene had led himself to believe that Indian policy had changed considerably and that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was no longer averse to the idea of some joint action to end terrorism in Sri Lanka, since India was faced with a similar situation in Punjab where the extremists continue to indulge in sporadic violence. The Sri Lankan propaganda tried to frighten India by throwing some dark hints about a possible link up of the Tamil terrorists and the Sikh elements, besides spreading stories of arms acquisition by them from the same sources.

The recent seizure of an arms consignment by the customs in Madras was cited as evidence of a graver threat that India might face of a possible involvement of the Tamil Tigers in Tamil Nadu politics leading to a bigger separatist movement, if the insurgency in the Jaffna area was not contained in time through joint action. The Sri Lankan Government started talking of the need for not only curbs on the activities of the Tamil militants who have sought refuge in Tamil Nadu, but also of more active steps to prevent their return to Sri Lanka to intensify the insurgency in the troubled Northern and Eastern provinces. It was followed by the preposterous suggestion that the recently enacted law against terrorism in India should be amended to extend its stringent provisions to even those who were engaged in violence against other nations.

The summit meeting has certainly helped Sri Lanka to gain time in coming to grips with the political aspects of the Tamil problem, while committing India to a policy of actively discouraging the insurgency through some sort of simultaneous action by the two countries to defuse the situation. The sequence of the proposed steps still remains to be worked out. But an understanding in principle has been reached to work together to restore normalcy as a prelude to a resumption of negotiations. There has been some talk of an amnesty for the Tigers if they lay down arms, followed by a withdrawal of Sri Lankan troops from the Northern and Eastern provinces, to enable the militants to participate in the negotiations at an appropriate stage to pave the way for a wider political settlement.

But it all depends on how far Mr. Jayewardene and his colleagues, who have been totally insensitive to Tamil grievances would be prepared to go in offering a credible measure of regional autonomy to the two provinces. If they try to dodge the issue to procrastinate over the concept or content of autonomy, there will be trouble on a much larger scale which could easily spill over to the Indian side of the Palk Strait with much more serious consequences.

A tacit understanding was reached during the summit that Mr. Jayewardene would concede, in one form or the other, the kind of autonomy available to the Indian States to meet the basic demand of the Tamils for their due

share of power within a united Sri Lankan State. It was in this context that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had said that India was opposed to the idea of not only a separate Eelam but also a federal structure that went against the unitary character of Sri Lanka. He commended the idea of the Indian parallel that would give the Northern and Eastern provinces the same sort of powers available to the Indian States.

At this moment it is anybody's guess how all this is going to work, to what extent India is going to be involved in ending violence in Sri Lanka, whether Mr. Jayewardene is going to live up to the teachings of the Buddha which he has cited with such great fervour and emotion. The best that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi can do is to keep his fingers crossed hoping for the best, while retaining his options to espouse the Tamil cause more fervently if Mr. Jayewardene fails to keep his faith and goes back on his assurances. The generation gap between the two cannot be closed with mere platitudes.

CSO: 4600/1693

INDIA

PROTEST ON AIR INTRUSION MADE TO PAKISTAN ENVOY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan for the "flagrant" violation of Indian air space by Pakistani Air Force jet fighters on 29 May.

Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari spoke to Pakistani Ambassador Humayun Khan and conveyed India's strong protest against the incident. This was followed up with a written communication from the Ministry to the Pakistani Embassy.

An official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said on Friday that Pakistani Air Force jet aircraft intruded into India's air space in the northern part of Jammu and Kashmir on the morning of 29 May.

The incident, according to the sources, was reviewed at the highest level in the Defence Ministry.

The spokesman did not specify either the sector or the number of aircraft involved in the incident, but sources said that aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force intruded into Indian air space in the Siachin glacier region and flew over strategic areas. They were apparently on a reconnaissance mission.

UN adds: The Indian Air Force bases were alerted following the intrusion but the Indian side showed great restraint and no retaliatory action was taken. Sources said there was absolutely no provocation for Pakistan to violate the Indian air space.

Sources said it was equally regrettable that Pakistan was indulging in such "unfriendly" acts particularly at a time when efforts were being made to normalise relations with it. They felt that such actions by Pakistan could only vitiate the atmosphere and hamper the process of a dialogue that has begun to establish mutual trust and understanding.

Defence experts were studying the air corridor which the intruding Pakistani jets used to enter Indian air space to fly over strategic areas.

Experts ruled out the possibility of violation of the air space by mistake or by malfunctioning of the aircraft systems.

The experts said that the very fact that there were two aircraft ruled out the possibility of a navigational error.

CSO: 4600/1687

INDIA

WRITER NOTES 'OMINOUS SIGNS' ON PAKISTAN BORDER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jun 85 p 4

[Article by Saral Patra]

[Text]

Signs of ominous developments on the Indo-Pak border areas are clearly discernible. The latest foray by two Pakistani air force planes on a photo-reconnaissance mission over Ladakh's Siachen glacier, north of the Nubra valley, cannot be considered as just another of several violations of Indian air space across the line of actual control (LAC). It is indicative of something deeper and more menacing when seen against the simultaneous Pakistan troops attacks.

The location of the Siachen glacier is of great strategic importance. It separates the Pak-occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir from those northern parts of the State which Pakistan had illegally ceded to China. For quite some time now Pakistan has been making efforts to secure a common border with China in this region. Apparently, the remoteness of the area had encouraged the Pakistani forces to attempt this misadventure with the expectation of least resistance. However, our security forces have successfully repulsed these attacks which began on 30 May.

It is not that these attacks to dislodge the Indians from the post guarding the Siachen glacier is some sudden unexpected happening. For the past eighteen months the Indo-Pak international border, as well as the LAC, have been more than active. There has been an increasing number of exchanges of fire since the beginning of 1984.

Those incidents, if one may say so, had followed a pattern. Whenever there were efforts on both sides to

take steps to resolve at least some of the minor outstanding issues bedevilling the relations between our two countries, these incidents temporarily disappeared.

But this time there appears to be an intriguing variation. Such a serious action in the Siachen glacier area has taken place on the eve of the ministerial level meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 27 to 29 June. The Joint Commission had met only once since its formation in 1983 in Islamabad. Its second annual meeting scheduled for summer of 1984, was called off following Pakistan's involvement in Punjab developments and provocative statements by its leaders and media.

India had, however, taken an initiative to reactivate the Joint Commission with the hope that no untoward incident would jeopardise the prospects of the joint efforts towards normalisation of relations between our two countries. But the hostile action to push out the Indian post at the Siachen glacier does create an apprehension about the Pakistani motive.

A matter of greater concern is that these hostile activities are taking place at a time when the terrorists and extremists are trying to regroup and once again create a situation of insecurity and destabilisation in Punjab. Persistent reports testify to the existence of training camps across the international border where the terrorists are armed and helped to infiltrate to carry on their hit-and-run

the existing boundaries by the force of arms. Consequently, these sections condemn the elaborate arms build up with modern sophisticated weapons secured from the US. They consider it as nothing but an unnecessary acquisition at the cost of the people's urgent necessities of life.

On the other hand a relentless anti-India campaign has been carried on by the Pak military authorities, from General Ziaul Haq downwards. If the General had told a Canadian paper that India had been maltreating its Muslim population, some of his aides had been hinting at India being further partitioned as a natural corollary to the formation of Pakistan.

This innuendo about a possible emergence of a so-called Khalistan on the soil of Punjab — so loudly acclaimed in the media of that country — has to be seen in the background of the training camps opened across India's border. These are being used to train batches of Sikh young people in subversive activities in India in order to create a situation of destabilisation and disrupt India's sovereignty and integrity.

So long as a formidable military-bureaucratic combine exists in Pakistan with its vested interests in perpetuating martial law and all its appurtenances, these incidents will continue to take place, with playing up a so-called danger emanating from India. And these elements would certainly not like India's efforts to minimise the tension, as it has done by taking the initiative to reconvene the Joint Commission.

India is interested in creating an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual cooperation in South Asia. Its activities to promote South Asian Regional Cooperation have been quite well proved by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's gesture in taking along visiting Sri Lanka President to Bangladesh to express sympathy with and support to the cyclone-hit people there.

INDIA

SIX TOP CPI LEADERS ATTACK OFFICIAL PARTY LINE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jun 85 p 5

[Article by Arindam Sen Gupta]

[Text] Six prominent CPI leaders have characterised the party's official lines as "wrong" and have asked party general secretary C Rajeswara Rao to abandon the policy of "blind anti-Congressism" which was a "non-Marxist, non-class approach".

The leaders include the CPI national council members, Mr M Kalyanasundaram, Mr Mohit Sen and Mr H K Vyas.

In a document titled, Lok Sabha Elections: Communists Review, the leaders said that it had been brought out to air "the views of those who are struggling against the erroneous and harmful line of the CPI leadership".

The document also contains articles by another national council member Gopal Banerjee, Tamilnadu State Council member N T Vanamamalai and Delhi State Council member B D Joshi. It has been edited by Mr Girish Mishra who resigned from the CPI and joined the Congress on the eve of the recent Lok Sabha poll.

While Mr Mohit Sen and Mr H K Vyas had earlier publicly aired their criticism of the party line and had also been reprimanded for that, this is the first time that Mr Kalyanasundaram, a veteran CPI leader and leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha, has openly come out against the party line.

In the lead article, Mr Kalyanasundaram, Mr Sen and Mr Vyas have first drawn attention to the CPI's bad showing in the Lok Sabha poll which indicated that "the tactical line we have been following for the last three years and the electoral line have been wrong and not in consonance with the mood of our people or the needs of patriotism and internationalism".

They have stated that the people voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Congress because they wanted to safeguard national freedom and unity against divisive communal forces and "the conspiracies of US imperialism". The decisive vote was "a positive development", they have said.

The CPI, on the other hand, came to electoral understanding with the other bourgeois opposition parties and pitted themselves against this mass mainstream. The party's participation in Opposition conclaves made people suspect the CPI's earnestness in defending national unity, the leaders have said.

"Despite the resolutions the national council and CEC have passed, our party leadership and specially the party general secretary went on saying in election meetings that the unity and integrity of India is being endangered by the Congress Government. The people have decisively rejected this thesis."

The CPI's slogan of defeating both the Congress and the BJP made no sense, the article adds. "The general secretary's call to boycott the poll where the choice was between the Congress and the BJP was wrong and not sanctioned by the national council." The party leadership has also been accused of deviating from the decisions taken at the Bhatinda and Varanasi congress of the CPI.

The drubbing at the polls should initiate a "serious introspection" about the CPI's tactical line. The first task before the party is to win over the "basic class", or, the poor and the minorities, including those from this section who are presently with the Congress.

"To win them over, we cannot at this very critical stage, pose before them the slogan of replacing this Government in every struggle that we organise."

While the other Opposition parties were ambivalent in their approach to questions such as anti-imperialism, world peace, friendship with the Soviet Union and socialist countries as well as to issues such as planned economic development and self-reliance, the Congress was the "biggest secular, anti-imperialist force" in the country, the leaders said.

The Congress, it has been pointed out, was also committed to non-alignment and friendship with socialist countries. The ruling party was trying to develop India's self-reliance

though it followed a capitalist path and was giving concessions to monopolists and multi-nationals.

The leaders while saying this about the Congress have added that there was no question of the CPI lining up behind the Congress or Mr Rajiv Gandhi as they followed a capitalist path that "cannot solve the basic problems of the people".

As an alternative, the leaders have asked the CPI to cooperate with the Congress on questions of anti-imperialism, fighting "CIA conspiracies", for national unity and a policy of non-alignment and friendship with the socialist countries. The party should also criticise when necessary the weaknesses and vacillations of the Congress.

At the same time, whenever rightist parties or forces or individuals took a wrong stand, the CPI should "sharply and consistently" criticise them together with the Congress. "Our line should be to come out with alternative policy slogans and demand concrete steps to reform the economy," the leaders have said.

They have also asked for cooperation with the CPI-M but have warned the leadership not to give in to the Marxist's "opportunistic policies and their one-point programme of reducing the strength of our party". "We have to build left unity without giving in to the blind anti-Congressism of the CPI-M."

CSO: 4600/1687

INDIA

CPI GENERAL SECRETARY MEETS PRESS IN BHUBANESWAR

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 4 Jun 85 p 5

[Text]

Bhubaneswar, June 3 (PTI): Mr C. Rajeshwara Rao, CPI general secretary, today appealed to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to call an all-party meeting soon to hammer out a political solution to the Punjab problem.

This would help isolate the "Khalistani" terrorists once and for all, Mr Rao told a press conference here. He warned that the terrorists might use 'genocide week' to step up their nefarious activities. "It is a good augury that the Akali leadership has realised their folly of pampering the extremists and are trying to demarcate from them," he said.

Referring to United States policy, Mr Rao described it as a "double-edged policy of flattery and blackmail in order to divert

our country from its progressive foreign policy and weaken it".

He said the US, on the one hand, was promising all sorts of help to India, and on the other, was continuing their massive programme of arming 'Zia's military regime'. Besides, they were helping the genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka, strengthening their military presence in the Indian Ocean and preventing the implementation of the UN resolution of making the ocean a zone of peace.

The CPI leader said the Reagan Administration, which had encouraged all along the "Khalistani" separatist forces, was now enacting the drama of having discovered a plot to assassinate Mr Gandhi and thus appearing as his protector.

CSO: 4600/1692

INDIA

LONGOWAL DENIES EFFORTS TO FORM SEPARATE SIKH STATE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 85 p 9

[Text] SANGRUR, May 27 (UNI)--THE Akali Dal (L) president Saint Harchand Singh Longowal has said his party had neither demanded a separate "Sikh state" nor could it afford to do so in future.

He told this to party jathedars at his residence in his home village Longowal, 20 km. from here, just before agreeing to withdraw his resignation from the party presidentship yesterday.

Mr. Longowal charged the Union government with planting its "agents" in the Akali Dal to create problems in the panthic unity.

He accused the government of consistently making efforts to "defame" the Sikh community.

Later, talking to UNI, Mr. Longowal said the so-called "united" Akali Dal headed by Mr. Joginder Singh, father of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was "undemocratic."

He said it had never been given affiliation by his Dal nor had it any support from district Akali jathedars.

Replying to a question, Mr. Longowal described as a "concocted story" the revelation by the U.S. about the "Sikh extremists" murder plot against the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal.

He said the U.S. move was simply to "appease" the Indian government and win over its sympathies before Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union.

PTI adds: Mr. Longowal, whose resignation from the presidentship of the Akali party had been rejected by presidents of district units by voice vote, would be formally "reinstalled" in the office on June 9 next.

Mr. Joginder Singh Mann, convenor of the United Akali Dal met Mr. Longowal at his home villarge, 20 km from Sangrur. They had a prolonged meeting. Details, however, were not known.

Joginder's outbursts (PTI): Baba Joginder Singh, acting convener of "the United Akali Dal" has lashed, out at his detractors indulging in "false propaganda" that the nine-member panel was the "brainchild" of Congress.

"If we are Congress agents, then how some issues raised by us are still hanging fire", he said while talking to pressmen at Phagwara, about 25 km from Jalandhar, on Monday evening.

Renewing his unity appeal to Sant Longowal, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra and Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, the Baba said doors of the panel were still open for them. He denied having written any letter giving a deadline of May 25 to these leaders for joining or leaving the panel.

CSO: 4600/1679

INDIA

LONGOWAL SETS CONDITIONS FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Jun 85 p 1

[Text]

Jalandhar, June 1 (PTI): The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, today laid down seven conditions for resuming negotiations with the Centre.

These are the unconditional release of Sikh youths and others, normalisation of the situation, abolition of the special courts, widening the scope of the judicial inquiry into the anti-Sikh riots and punishment of the Congress(I) leaders found guilty, and winning back the confidence of Sikhs by "restoring their prestige," and the reinstatement of Sikh soldiers who had deserted following Operation Bluestar.

Talking to newsmen yesterday evening in village Khaira near Phagwara in Kapurthala district, he said the Akali Dal was committed to national unity and integrity. He urged people to give a "united fight" to the Congress(I) which, he charged, was "out to disintegrate the country."

Sant Longowal pledged that the *dharmyudh morcha* would continue peacefully till the resolution of the Punjab problem. He said the *morcha* had neither been suspended nor stopped.

Sant Longowal claimed that though he had been appointed the

morcha "dictator," he consulted everyone for every party programme "like a true democrat."

He added that his was the "real" Akali Dal and appealed to other "brothers" to "join us as I am for Panthic unity." He said that as the *dharmyudh* continued "I also continue to be the *mukh sewadar* (*morcha* dictator)."

Separate Akhand Path

Rival factions of the Akali Dal held akhand paths separately in the Golden Temple complex at Amritsar today. While the Longowal group began prayers at the Akal Takht, the "united" Akali Dal headed by Baba Joginder Singh began recitations from the Sikh scriptures at the Manji Sahib Dewan hall within the complex.

Baba Joginder's stand: Addressing a congregation at Gurdwara Kartarian at Batala, in Gurdaspur district today, Baba Joginder Singh said he had formed the Akali Dal ad hoc committee for forging Panthic unity.

"Our fight is against the Union government and not against Hindus. The 'Sangat' (Sikh masses) had not accepted the Akal Takht rebuilt with the "assistance of the government," he added.

CSO: 4600/1689

INDIA

REPORT ON RAJIV SPEECH AT BANK OF INDIA CELEBRATION

Importance of Private Sector

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] BOMBAY, June 1--THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has called upon banks to prepare themselves to face new challenges, as "we look ahead to the 21st Century to make a new technological India."

Speaking as the chief guest at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Reserve Bank of India here today, Mr. Gandhi said that although the banking industry had given a good account of itself in the past, there was tremendous scope for improvement. With the nationalisation of major banks in 1969 and the opening of more rural branches, banks had to face new problems.

Mr. Gandhi said it was the human factor which was important in any sphere of activity. Bank personnel should remember that the customer was more important.

He said banks in India had to cater to the needs of different classes of customers and since adopt different procedures. Banks should ensure that credit went to correct areas, he said.

Referring to industrial sickness, Mr. Gandhi announced that the government proposed to come out with measures which would make it "more difficult and expensive" for the managements to make their units "sick".

He said the nominees of financial institutions and banks on the boards of private companies should ensure that sickness was contained in time.

Mr. Gandhi ruled out categorically any chances of the government undermining the role of the public sector. He said in coming years, the public sector would have to fulfil the same function and responsibilities as in the past.

He said when the government took the decision to encourage the public sector, many opposed it. The country was proud of the contribution of the public sector in building up a strong industrial infrastructure and providing a sense of self-confidence in the economic field.

"India is poised to forge ahead and a number of steps would have to be taken by all sectors of the economy". He said the public sector was expected to adopt new technological developments as "we are at a turning point." The public sector could act as a catalyst, he added.

Referring to the role of banking in industry, he said the development must be mainly in the rural areas and special efforts should be made to see that the most needy were helped.

Training of bank personnel was important, Mr. Gandhi said. There should be very substantial exchange between the lowest cadre and the top management.

Presiding over the function, Mr. V. P. Singh, Union finance minister, said the RBI had to ensure that finances were available according to the plan priorities, and the financing of the various plans was done without generating inflationary pressures.

Welcoming the guests, Mr. R. N. Malhotra, RBI governor, said the last five decades had seen revolutionary political and economic changes which had influenced the policies of the RBI. As the monetary authority of the country the bank had striven to achieve a stable financial environment, promote a sound financial infrastructure and reconcile the demands of growth with the objective of price stability, he said.

He announced the setting up in Bombay of an advanced research institute for the study of economic development issues from the national and international perspective. The RBI has decided to name it the "Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research". It would be set up near Goregaon and would be completed within two years.

Need for Modernization

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 2 Jun 85 p 7

[Text] BOMBAY, June 1--Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has asked the Reserve Bank to devise measures to ensure that the banking system is able to match the mood of new dynamism now permeating through the country.

Addressing a large and distinguished gathering at a function held to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Reserve Bank of India, the Prime Minister stressed the need to bring about a change in the mentality of the people working in banks to enable the banking system to serve as a modern, faster and more responsive instrument of growth.

He felt that this was necessary to equip the system to meet the challenges that lay ahead. Banks were intended to play a catalytic role in promoting the development of the rural areas and in improving the plight of the backward and depressed sections of the society.

They should create and foster initiative among the masses through a well designed programme of branch expansion. If the recovery of loans posed a

problem, the solution lay not in stopping financial assistance but in making sure that the flow of credit went to the correct channels.

The task called for thorough modernization through proper training of bank personnel. This should be achieved by laying a proper emphasis on productivity. Accent should be on a faster and more efficient customer service, he said.

Public Sector

Referring to the role of the public sector, Mr Gandhi maintained that there was nothing to be ashamed of if it was found to be wanting in some sectors. It had done a lot in inculcating a noticeable temperament and in developing a management cadre versed in various disciplines. As a matter of fact, the public sector must provide leadership by displaying anew thinking aimed at absorbing new technologies.

On the question of industrial sickness, he said that the Government intended to make deliberate sickness a very costly affair to induce the boards of companies to abandon the tendency to remain indifferent when their companies were going down. He felt that financial institutions should step in to prevent industrial sickness.

Presiding over the function, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Union Finance Minister, praised the role played by the Reserve Bank in the country's planned economic development and particularly in mobilizing savings.

He conceded that the rapid branch expansion had imposed severe strains on the banking system but felt that it must concentrate on achieving better customer service and more efficient housekeeping. It must consolidate its position by developing a greater operational efficiency and an ability to handle the growing volume of business. Simultaneously, it must see that the flow of credit was directed to the desired areas and keep a continuous watch on inflationary pressures.

He emphasized the need for achieving price stability to promote growth consistent with social justice. The inflation this year was the lowest in the past three years, and it was the Government's intention to contain any rise in prices through a coordination of fiscal and monetary policies.

He disclosed that the Reserve Bank had drawn up in consultation with commercial banks a plan to modernize the work technology of the banking sector it hoped to implement this programme in phases by 1990.

At the top of the bank's agenda was the task of setting up in Bombay an advanced research institute dedicated to the study of economic development issues from national and international perspectives. It was decided to name this institute "the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research" as the bank's tribute to her memory, he said.

INDIA

PROSPECTS FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS TERMED 'ALARMING'

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 May 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 30--Although the latest World Bank report on the Indian economy states that "the balance of payments situation was within manageable limits in 1984-85" the projections for the Seventh Plan period and beyond paint an alarming picture.

In dollar terms, India's exports (including non-factor services) have increased only marginally from \$11,109 million in 1982-83 to an estimated \$11,467 million in 1984-85. What has saved the country from an immediate crisis is that imports increased too only marginally from \$16,174 million in 1982-83 to \$16,365 million this year.

During the first four years of the Sixth Plan, the country borrowed over \$16 1/2 billion. Nearly \$5 billion was paid back immediately during these years to service previous loans. By 1989-90, the World Bank estimates that imports will double from the current level, if a 5% rate of growth of national income is to be sustained. Even if exports and remittances double, the country will still need to borrow \$32.8 billion to finance its balance of payments deficits. Over half of this will have to be on commercial terms.

In the last five years nearly \$3 billion has been deposited by non-resident Indians in external accounts. But this is "hot" money (which can be withdrawn at short notice), and it is only a mixture of patriotism and high interest rates which induces non-residents to keep their money with India. Were it not for the IMF loan and non-resident deposits, the country would not have any foreign currency reserves at this time.

This underlines the necessity of doubling the exports. The record of the past five years has been particularly bleak. Merchandise exports increased from \$7,948 million in 1979-80 to only \$8,560 million in 1984-85. During this same period, exports of non-factor services also grew from \$2,340 million to only \$2,908 million.

Between 1973 and 1980, the report states, the real effective exchange rate of the rupee depreciated by 3% per annum. This along with favourable external demand conditions, increasing export incentives and measures to restrain domestic demand, resulted in merchandise exports increasing \$2 1/2 billion in

1972-73 to \$ 8 1/2 billion in 1980-81 (at which level they have remained since.

Fall in Exchange Rate

Although since 1980, the exchange rate which was Rs 8 a dollar has depreciated to more than Rs 12 a dollar, the increase in domestic prices of nearly 70% during the past five years has more than offset the competitive advantage the country could have gained from the devaluation. Unlike the 1970s, the external environment for pushing exports has deteriorated. It appears that without a comprehensive and through-going change in economic policy, the country will not be able to increase its exports by 9% every year. This under the World Bank scenario is the minimum growth rate required to sustain a more imports necessary for a 7% annual increase in industrial production.

Imports can of course be held down. But if this happens, the current liberal orientation of trade and industrial policies will have to be abandoned. The report analyses in depth the consequences if the export growth rate fall short by even 2% from the projected 9% per annum. In such a case only severe import controls will prevent the current account deficits and debt service ratios from being on explosive "time paths".

The report suggests that "exports must be made the catalyst of economic growth in the next five year". If this occurs it can "have a dramatic effect on the rest of the economy". This will "assure foreign exchange earnings which are needed to pay for the imports essential for 5% growth and to build up the nation's foreign borrowing capacity". It can "stimulate competition, encourage efficient production in order to sell abroad, force higher quality standards and expand the scale of production as well as improve capacity utilization."

CSO: 4600/1685

INDIA

BAHUGUNA CALLS FOR NATIONAL PANEL ON PUNJAB

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Jun 85 p 9

[Text] RANCHI, May 31--Mr H. N. Bahuguna, vice-president of the Lok Dal, has called for the constitution of a national reconciliation committee on Punjab to save the State and the country from disintegration.

He felt that leading political parties, prominent citizens and intellectuals should be invited to join the panel to frame a formula which should be acceptable to both the Government and the Akalis.

If need be, Mr Bahuguna said, the committee could be vested with powers that would make the recommendations binding on both the sides. "I would prefer President Zail Singh or the Chief Justice of India to head such a committee", he said in an interview here last night.

Talking about the Opposition parties, Mr Bahuguna admitted that a defeatist tendency was overtaking them and this is a dangerous trend for the survival of democracy in India. The fault lay in the leadership of the Opposition parties. To a suggestion he agreed that there was no use talking of Opposition unity since the experiment had failed in the past.

About his own party, Mr Bahuguna admitted that somehow the party had come to be regarded as a party of the backward classes with dominance of the jats but such an impression was being created by the ruling party. He wondered how anyone could describe Mr Charan Singh as a Jat leader when hardly nine out of 32 districts in Uttar Pradesh had Jats population. When Mahatma Gandhi identified himself with the Harijans, nobody described the Mahatma as the leader of the Harijans. True, the Lok Dal was identified with the backwards, but there was nothing wrong in championing the cause of those sections of society which were economically and socially backwards. Asked if, with he occupying an important post in the party, there would be change in the Lok Dal's base by including people from higher castes, Mr Bahuguna said the party would not like to alter its mass base which remained among the backward castes. But, at the same time, it would endeavour to unite people from all hues. Right now, there was no specific programme to counter the Congress (I) politically, Mr Bahuguna said, adding that in due course the party would launch a mass movement in the country and educate them about the misrule of the Congress Government.

INDIA

MINISTER CLAIMS DHAKA RECEIVING SHARE OF GANGES WATER

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Jun 85 p 5

[Text]

Calcutta, June 1: The Union irrigation minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, today denied the allegation that Bangladesh was not receiving its share of Ganga water. Speaking to newsmen at Dum Dum airport, Mr Shankaranand said, "Bangladesh is getting its share of Ganga water in accordance with old arrangements even after expiry of the agreement."

Mr Shankaranand, who was on his way to Dhaka for the 28th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, said the threat of floods in Tripura following the construction of a bund near Belonia had been brought to the notice of Bangladesh. It had agreed to stop work on the bund, he added.

Mr Shankaranand said he met the state chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, this morning. The problems faced by the Calcutta port and the state's irrigation projects were discussed at the meeting, Mr Shankaranand said.

Earlier at Writers' Buildings, Mr Nani Bhattacharya, state minister for irrigation, told newsmen the state had demanded 40,000 cusecs of water for the Calcutta port and 15,000 cusecs for irrigation from Farak-

ka. He alleged the state had never received its due share of Ganga water from Farakka.

Mr Bhattacharya said the state government had requested Mr Shankaranand to release at least Rs 18 crores during the current financial year for the Teesta barrage project. Mr Bhattacharya, who was present during the chief minister's meeting with Mr Shankaranand, said work on the Teesta project had been affected due to inadequate funds.

He said the state had not received any money from the Centre for the project last year. It had got only Rs 5 crores against the requirement of Rs 25 crores in 1983-84. He said that despite such financial constraints, about 40% of the work on the project had been completed.

Mr Bhattacharya said Mr Basu drew Mr Shankaranand's attention to the problem of erosion in some areas of Murshidabad district following the construction of the Farakka barrage. He said two schemes to control erosion by the Ganga and to save the Farakka barrage were lying with the Union irrigation department for the past few years. Mr Shankaranand promised to look into the matter.

CSO: 4600/1689

19 July 1985

INDIA

CHANGE IN TELUGU DESAM PARTY CONSTITUTION REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 May 85 p 1

[Text]

HYDERABAD, May 28.

The Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao has defended the far-reaching changes made in the constitution of the Telugu Desam Party as having become necessary to ensure that he would discharge the duties and fulfil the objectives of the party without blaming anyone for the lapses.

The party constitution as amended today gives the party president powers to nominate a 26-member secretariat, including the general secretary, vice-president and the treasurer and also a five-member policy planning committee functioning as the politburo of the party, determining Telugu Desam's relations with other Opposition parties, finalising the selection of party candidates for elections and for taking disciplinary action against members.

The amendments to the constitution were approved today by the Party's Kendra Parishat, the last act it performed before it was dissolved. The parishat was elected for a two-year term at the Vijayawada Mahanadu on May 28, 1983.

According to these amendments, the 4,000 delegates who will be elected for the general council meeting to be held in Hyderabad during Dasara this year, will elect only the party president. In contrast, the Vijayawada Mahanadu elected not only the president, but also two vice-presidents, the general secretary and three secretaries and treasurer, apart from the Kendra Parishat.

Since there is little doubt that Mr. Rama Rao will be re-elected party president, the effect of these amendments would be to give him wide powers to nominate the policy-making body.

The Telugu Desam also approved Mr. Rama Rao's effort at establishing the Bharata Desam Party and said that a meeting of intellectuals, public workers and leaders who have already shown interest in this proposal, should be held before finalising the shape of the party at the Hyderabad meet.

Mr. Rama Rao declined to spell out details of the new party, pending finalisation of the proposal.

The Telugu Desam cautioned the Government of India against the abuse of the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Prevention Act. It wanted the Centre to strive for consensus on all national issues. It said the violence in Punjab and Gujarat and emergence of terrorism to solve political issues was the result of the Centre's failure to solve key issues during the past 35 years.

Though there was big police bandobust at the venue of the conference yesterday, it was withdrawn today and there was relaxed atmosphere with delegates and the general public moving about the venue even as Mr. Rama Rao was attending meetings of the Telugu Yuvata, Telugu Mahila and Telugu Nadu Trade Union Council. At the Telugu Mahila conference, which was open to the press, member after member stood up to complain that the administration was totally insensitive to the problems of the destitute women. Mr. Rama Rao himself said that he was not satisfied with the performance of the Minister for Women's Welfare, Mrs. K. Prathibha Bharathi, who was present at the conference. The Chief Minister later explained to pressmen that his remarks were in the nature of general criticism and that he was not satisfied about his own performance as Chief Minister.

Earlier, Mr. P. Upendra, who laid down office as the Party's General Secretary, denied reports in a section of the press that he was eased out of office to make way for Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister's son-in-law.

Mr. Upendra said he submitted his resignation as General Secretary one year ago when he was elected to the Rajya Sabha but was asked to continue till today. Mr. Rama Rao intervened to say that the party had decided to make use of Mr. Upendra's services as Leader of the Parliamentary Party.

CSO: 4600/1683

INDIA

COMMISSION WARNS OF POLLING PROBLEMS IN BIHAR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jun 85 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, June 2 (PTI)--THE election commission has warned that unless effective measures are taken well in time and the administration acts with determination, it would become increasingly difficult in Bihar to ensure that elections reflect the will of the electorate.

The commission, in its latest report to Parliament, singles out Bihar in the chapter dealing with incidents of violence, intimidation and undue influence of voters in certain areas of the country during the recent Lok Sabha elections.

The report said it was unfortunate that the law and order machinery was not so effective in Bihar as elsewhere in implementing various measures recommended by the commission for combating the "evil" of violence and other methods.

The commission said "this state (Bihar) is extremely caste ridden and anti-social elements have been meddling for a long time with the elections by using their muscle power".

"The commission would like to emphasise that unless effective measures are taken well in time before future elections, and, the administrative machinery acts with determination and a sense of commitment to conduct the elections in a free and fair manner, it would become increasingly difficult to ensure that the results reflect the will of the electorate expressed through the ballot box", the report remarked.

It said the Centre and the states were asked to ensure adequate security arrangements in sensitive areas and for deployment of Central and state security forces. It was also emphasised that there should be a proper mix of employees of Central government and Central public sector employees with state government employees for manning polling stations.

The report also referred to the complaints about conduct of elections and action taken on them.

One such complaint was of the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, that some personnel in outpost in Malda district were getting involved in

extraneous issues and behaving in a partisan manner. He also alleged that the RPF, whose principal duty was to guard railway property, was being detailed in Malda district to do something beyond this. According to him these forces were being used as an auxiliary to the election campaign machinery of the then minister for railways.

The commission requested the railway ministry and the director general of the RPF to investigate the allegations and to send a report to the commission urgently.

The railway minister, who came to know about the complaints, denied the allegations about the misuse of the RPF. So far as the complaint regarding RPF was concerned he stated that he had no faith in the state police and that it was the duty of the RPF to protect him and the railway property.

The director general of the RPF reported that RPF staff normally accompanied the minister for railways during his journey by rail or road right from the date he took over as minister. These RPF men were to supplement the security arrangements of the state government and not to be used as a substitute thereto.

The commission was not satisfied with the explanation given for deployment of RPF for the security of the minister. It observed that the function of RPF was to protect the railway property and not a minister (even if it is a railway minister) and under government of India instructions, the state government had to perform this function.

The commission further observed that if there was a problem regarding security with the West Bengal government, the ministry of home affairs should take appropriate action.

There was also another complaint by Mr. Basu about the non-observance of model code of conduct by Mr. A. B. A. GHani Khan Choudhary, the then railway minister, like laying the foundation of concrete sleeper manufacturing depot at Malda, inauguration of sports stadium at Malda on November 14, 1984, and introduction of new express trains from north Bengal to Delhi and new train services from Durgapur and other industrial townships.

The commission requested the cabinet secretary to get these matters looked into and to inform the commission of the facts. He was also asked to impress upon the Central ministries and agencies the need for scrupulous observance, both in letter and in spirit, of the provisions of the model code of conduct in the interest of free and fair elections.

The railway board chairman wrote to the commission about the details of the three projects and also gave details to show that these projects were conceived much earlier than November 14. He also denied there was any announcement about any specific new trains.

The report said the commission felt that whatever might be the justification for launching these projects, their timing was such as to constitute a violation of the hotel code of conduct.

CSO: 4600/1691

INDIA

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY SEES 'PRODUCTION EXPLOSION'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jun 85 p 9

[Text] BANGALORE, June 2--THE consumer electronics industry in the country witnessed a "production explosion" last year, thanks to the rapid expansion of the television network in the country covering 70 per cent of the population.

The production registered a growth rate of 78 per cent during 1984, giving a shot in the arm to the flourishing electronics industry.

The production in this sector was worth Rs. 587 crores to Rs. 330 crores in the previous year. The output of black and white TV sets went up to one million and that of colour sets to 0.28 million from a mere 50,000 in the previous year. The taperecorder industry also registered a substantial growth with its production increasing from 0.90 million units to 1.22 million units, electronics industry sources said.

New items promoted in the television sector included the projection TV with an associated optical system for enlargement of picture. This type of TV was found popular in community centres and advertisement business. Besides this, video games and electronic toys also found increasing market during the year, the sources said.

The electronics industry as such made substantial progress last year. The total production of electronics in 1984 was estimated to be Rs. 1,890 crores compared to Rs. 1,360 crores in the previous year. The industry as a whole registered a 39 per cent growth against 13 per cent growth in the previous year.

The communications sector has shown an 18.7 per cent growth, with the production going up from Rs. 270 crores to Rs. 320.5 crores. This followed a substantial increase in the setting up of low-power (radio) transmitters.

While the aerospace and defence equipment sector showed an increase of 18.3 per cent, the computer, control and instruments sector registered a 30 per cent hike in production.

The industry had also increased its exports. Electronics exports went up from Rs. 114.5 crores in 1983 to Rs. 155 crores in 1984.

Electronics software took the lion's share in the exports, accounting for Rs. 24 crores in 1984 compared to Rs. 17 crores in the previous year. Electronics components showed exports worth Rs. 17.3 crores. Consumer electronics and other sectors like defence equipment and communications registered exports worth Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 3.5 crores.

Exports from Santa Cruz Electronics Exports Processing Zone (SEEPZ) alone accounted for Rs. 103.5 crores.

Detailed plans have been drawn up by the department of electronics to suit the electronics explosion to socio-economic needs. This takes into account the requirement of electromedical equipment.

CSO: 4600/1691

IRAN

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC CALLED UPON TO MEDIATE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 May 85 p 2

[Text]

BEIRUT, May 24 (IRNA)
— A Lebanese religious figure called on the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mediate between the warring Muslim factions as fighting continued in Beirut.

In a written message to Imam Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Sheikh Sae'ed Sha'ban, the head of the Tawheed Movement said the battle between the Palestinians and the Amal movement in Beirut was a "plan to destroy Muslim unity".

The Tripoli-based leader called for mediations to halt the fighting.

Similar messages were sent to Ayatollah Montazeri, the Iranian president, the Majlis speaker and the foreign minister.

Other Muslim figures in Lebanon, including the head of the supreme Shi'ite council and the leader of the Hezbollah had earlier called for a ceasefire between the warring factions which has left hundreds dead and wounded in the past few days.

In Beirut fighting continued despite an agreement that was reached between

Palestinians and Amal militias 15 hours earlier.

Sources said the fighting around Palestinian refugee camps was started by the anti-Arafat faction of Abu Musa and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Meanwhile in Christian east Beirut a general mourning was announced for the

victims of a bomb blast that left 55 dead and about 180 wounded.

The Wednesday explosion was caused by 400 kilos of explosives. Witnesses said a truck carrying gas cylinders was seen in the vicinity of the area before the explosion.

Observers said the blast was apparently a reaction to an earlier bomb explosion in Muslim west Beirut that left 80 dead and 170 wounded.

Religious and political figures have condemned the Wednesday blast as a crime against innocent victims. All shops and schools in east Beirut have closed in mourning.

IRAN

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR \$20 MILLION - EXPORT TO GDR

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 May 85 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, May 22 (IRNA) — G.D.R. minister of Chemical Industries Gunther Wyschofsky left Tehran after signing an agreement Wednesday morning and was seen off by Minister of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'ie.

According to the agreement, the Islamic Republic of Iran will export \$20m worth of non-oil goods to the G.D.R. during the current year.

The two countries will also cooperate with each other in the fields of foodstuffs and chemical industries, cement, raw materials, and heavy industries.

The G.D.R. will also cooperate with Iran in the transfer of its technology.

Earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Hussein Musavi met and conferred with Wyschofsky.

U.S. Imperialism

Hailing the outstanding efforts of Iranians in rehabilitating their country, the G.D.R. minister expressed satisfaction over his talks in Tehran.

He pointed to the plots of

U.S. imperialism in Europe and stressed that due to the joint anti-imperialistic stance of Iran and the G.D.R. a good future was foreseeable in the ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Musavi, expressing the hope for further expansion of relations with the G.D.R., said the aggression of U.S. imperialism had a universal dimension and was not confined to Europe.

Signs of such an aggression could be seen in the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the whole Middle East region, Musavi noted. "Of course, we are not scared of any confrontation with America," he said.

During the meeting, also attended by Minister of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'ie and ambassadors of the two countries, an agreement was signed for the establishment of a joint economic commission between Iran and the G.D.R.

IRAN

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC HAS RIGHT REGARDING IRAQ'S FUTURE REGIME

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 May 85 p 2

[Text]

ORUMIYEH, West Azarbaijan Pr., May 20 (IRNA) — Masoud Barzani, secretary general of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said Saturday that considering the number of Iranians martyred in the Iraqi-imposed war and the damages inflicted upon the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war, Iran had every right to want to be certain about the future regime of Iraq "and we are ready to fulfill our role in that regime."

"When Saddam started his war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he was in fact implementing an American plot, but he failed to take the great power of the Islamic Republic into account, and it must be said that this is not a war by the Iraqi people against Iran. Rather, it is the war of Saddam with the Islamic Republic," Barzani said.

"Today it is only the Iraqi security organization and a few regimes subservient to America that support Saddam, but it is much wiser if no group or country ties its own destiny to that of Saddam since Saddam's masters are looking for someone else to safeguard their interests better," he added.

Iraqi Kurds

Stressing his party's support for religious movements, Barzani said the Iraqi regime had repeatedly asked Ayatollah Hakim (opposition Iraqi religious leader) to issue a decree permitting the killing of Iraqi Kurds, but Ayatollah Hakim issued a decree saying that Kurdish people were the oppressed and the Iraqi regime was the oppressor.

He said the victory of the Islamic Revolution was a historic opportunity for the Kurdish people to defend their rights, but the treachery of counter-revolutionary groups hampered this. "These counter-revolutionaries joined Saddam's ranks and they have killed at least 200 of our people and this is why they have no right to claim they are representing the Kurdish people."

On the rumor of a request by the head of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran to meet with him, Barzani said (Abdolrahman). Qasemlou had committed such crimes that such a meeting could not take place. "By spreading this baseless rumor, they hoped to create some ambiguity about our relations with the Islamic Republic," Barzani added.

On the activities of the Kurdistan Patriotic Union of Iraq, Barzani said this group had never been involved in the struggle of the Kurdish Iraqi people and that Saddam's regime had always benefitted from its activities. "They have always cooperated with all Iraqi regimes and were drawn into Saddam's ranks in 1983 as a result of a plot hatched by America and France so as to save Saddam, but now that Saddam's downfall is imminent, this group too is changing direction."

"We are not against them opposing Saddam, but they have to prove their sincerity in their opposition to Saddam and must clarify their position vis-a-vis regional issues and undertake to refrain from sabotage activities. Then we will see what will happen," he added.

Turkey-Iraq Pacts

In relation to the announced agreements between the governments of Turkey and Iraq in regard to the issues of northern Iraq, Barzani said in fact the position of the Islamic Republic in this respect should be welcomed and no doubt Iran's position here was what negated the agreements (between Turkey and Iraq).

"We never want to get involved with Turkey. If America wants to come to Saddam's assistance using us as an excuse, we are ready to die but not to submit to force. We have done nothing that harms Turkey."

On the issue of the imposed war, Barzani said Iraq had never respected international regulations and standards, and the start of the imposed war, usage of chemical weapons and bombing civilian centers were among examples of this Iraqi disregard for international regulations. "We have always expressed our regret about the killing of innocent people and bombing of cities, and we know for a fact that the Islamic Republic refrains from hitting civilian targets as much as possible, but in view of the havoc brought about in Iran by the bombing done by the Iraqi regime, people in Iraq regard as justified any action of the Islamic Republic."

Masoud Barzani referred to his recent meeting with the leaders of Syria and Libya and added that at these meetings, he had stressed the fact that the Iraqi KDP was not anti-Arab.

Stressing that the KDP of Iraq would continue its struggle, Barzani said over the past two-and-a-half months, the KDP fighters had carried out 125 military operations against Saddam's forces, killing or wounding 368 of them, among whom were eight officers.

KDP Operations

"We have captured 38 members of Saddam's forces, destroyed 33 military vehicles

and carried out 144 cases of political operations, of which 16 military operations were carried out inside cities under the control of Saddam's forces.

"One of our important operations took place late last March when our forces captured the city of Dahouk for 24 hours on the occasion of the new year and celebrated the feast along with the people of Dahouk. Another major feat of our party was the execution of one of the Ba'ath party's regional leaders by the name of Mohammad Saeed."

Barzani concluded by saying that the majority of Kurds were Muslims and regarded the victory of the Islamic Revolution as their own and had great respect for Ayatollah Khomeini.

IRAN

BRIEFS

BOMBING SUSPECT ARRESTED--Tehran, May 27 (IRNA)--One of the key agents responsible for the bomb explosions at Tehran's Friday prayers on March 14 and at Nasser Khosrow in downtown Tehran on May 12, 1985 was arrested, it was announced Monday. The man, Ali Jahani, had been imprisoned for anti-state activities and was pardoned and released from prison during the celebrations of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution on February 11, 1984. Thirty-six bombs were discovered with Jahani when he was arrested. A relatively strong bomb made of 50 pounds of T.N.T. exploded at one of the busiest streets in downtown Tehran on May 12, 1985 causing the martyrdom of 15 persons and the wounding of 40 others. In another terrorist bomb blast, a small rug specially packed with explosives was detonated at the Tehran University Friday prayers' ceremony, while President Ali Khamene'i was delivering a Friday prayers' sermon on March 14, 1985. Fourteen people were martyred and another 88 were wounded in the blast. On May 14, Information Minister Muhammad Muhammadi Reyshahri told reporters that terrorists involved in the bomb explosions had been mainly identified and some of them arrested, of whom a number have been executed for their crimes. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 May 85 p 2]

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